

THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

THE MANAGER WHO FELL TO EARTH

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BEST FOR JOBS

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20-PAGE APPPOINTMENTS, SECTION 3

Director 100K
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US launches second missile attack

Iraqi MiGs challenge allied planes

By IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON, MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA, MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IRAQI forces repeatedly challenged the West yesterday after American mounted a second cruise missile attack to destroy more targets in southern Iraq.

Two MiG jets approached the extended "no-fly zone" before being turned back by an allied patrol, radar locked on to an American F16 jet — which promptly retaliated with a Harm missile — and Iraqi forces were again reported to be shelling a Kurdish stronghold in the north, even though Baghdad had insisted they had been withdrawn.

Bursts of anti-aircraft fire also rocked the capital last night, although there was no apparent target, and President Clinton swiftly declared: "I can tell you they are not the product of any action we have taken."

But despite such gestures of defiance, President Saddam Hussein showed the first sign of backing down in his confrontation with America when he removed about 30 combat planes from two air bases which fell into the no-fly zone at noon. Western military sources said that the aircraft

took off just before the deadline in a sign that Saddam — who met his air defence commanders yesterday — was reluctant to take on the Americans, in spite of his declaration on Tuesday that his forces should ignore the "damned imaginary lines".

American warships in the Gulf had earlier launched 17 Tomahawk cruise missiles on four of the targets that had been attacked on Tuesday in what was described as a mopping up operation. US Air Force General Joseph Ralston said that the aim was to make sure that the surface-to-air missile sites had been destroyed. "If there was any doubt at all, we thought it prudent to go back with a restrike," he said.

He also hinted that there could be further attacks if the Iraqis got the sites working again. "We will take prudent measures to ensure the safety of our air crews," he said.

Allied aircraft meanwhile resumed their patrols of the no-fly zone, although French planes did not operate in the new section. The French Government, which had reacted

coolly to Tuesday's bombardment, made plain that it had not agreed in advance to Mr Clinton's extension of the exclusion zone and its pilots did not fly beyond the old limit.

William Perry, the American Defence Secretary, said that the patrols faced two challenges on their first day back in the air — the MiGs which flew close to the forbidden line 27 miles from Baghdad and the radar which tracked the F16 — but he did not consider either episode to be serious.

The MiGs had been faced off without incident and the American pilot had fired a Harm missile at the radar, which was part of an SA-8 missile. Pentagon officials said they did not know whether the SA-8 was destroyed or if the crew switched off the radar and got out of the way. But Mr Perry said that the renewed cruise attack and the response to the Iraqi challenges proved that "we will take whatever action is necessary to enforce the no-fly zone".

Soon after he spoke, explosions and anti-aircraft fire rocked Baghdad and air-raided sirens sounded throughout the city, although no planes could be heard. At first shells were fired, followed 20 minutes later by surface-to-air missiles, and after the all-clear was sounded the CNN reporter Peter Arnett was summoned to the information ministry to be told that there had been a cruise attack on the outskirts of Baghdad. This was strongly denied by the Americans who put the firing down to edgy gunners over-reacting to an imagined attack.

Desert marauders, page 12
Lawrence Freedman, page 16



Find out the happy ending at a church near you.

Shock early for Christmas

By RUSSELL JENKINS
CHURCH leaders are setting out to shock this Christmas with a deliberately provocative poster campaign aimed at young non-churchgoers which its creators admit will alienate traditionalists.

Passers-by, attracted by the poster's arresting streetwise argot and zany line-drawing of three cartoon kings, are invited in small print to "find out the happy ending at a church near you".

The campaign has provoked a furious row. The Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, is leading opposition against a

message that he believes devalues the Christian faith. The Archbishop of Canterbury has pointedly given only his "guarded support" and senior clergy are refusing to use the material.

Dr Hope is said to be "livid" and has written a strongly worded letter to the Church of England's communications department with a copy to the Archbishop of Canterbury complaining that it is a "step too far" from the real meaning of Christmas.

The Rev John Broadhurst, national chairman of the influential Forward In Faith group and Bishop-designate of Ful-

Blair pledges to go ahead with planned income tax cut

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR yesterday pledged that he would go ahead with Labour's proposal to reduce the bottom rate of income tax to 10p or 15p and confirmed that under Labour Britain would sign up to the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

Addressing the party's conference to promote its economic policy and woo business support, the Labour leader and Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, also made clear that a Labour government would implement a national minimum wage, but it would not introduce new laws to clamp down on executive pay or corporate tax.

The proposal to reduce the lowest tax band to 10p provoked a furious attack from John Major and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who said the scheme would cost the Treasury £3 billion a year.

Mr Clarke will deride the plans further today when he launches the Conservatives' new "demon eyes" poster warning of "New Labour, New Taxes".

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, will make clear that the party will be as aggressive over Labour's tax plans as they were in the last general election campaign when Saatchi produced its £1,000 tax bomb poster for the Tories.

Asked about Labour's tax plans during a campaigning tour in Derbyshire, the Prime Minister said: "The day the Labour Party become tax-cutters you will hear cats bark and not before."

Mr Blair told the conference of 400 business leaders in London that there was nothing to fear from Labour's new approach to areas like trade union power and the minimum wage, which had provoked worries from industrialists and executives in the past.

"We have put the relationship with the trade unions on a new and more sensible footing," he said. "We have made it repeatedly clear there will be no return to penal tax rates... It is our long-term objective to reduce high marginal rates of tax for low income families."

Mr Blair said Labour would join the Maastricht social chapter but there had been a "distortion" of what it would mean. It would not, he said, threaten competitiveness.

The Labour leader argued that the key issue with the minimum wage was not the wage itself but the level at which it was set. "We have made it clear we will not pluck a figure from the air. It will be done sensibly and in consultation with business, taking account of the economic situation."

Mr Brown said it was Labour's long-term objective "to have a new lower starting rate of tax of 10p, or preferably 15p in the pound, that is in contrast to the Conservatives' objective of simply abolishing inheritance and capital gains tax."

Party sources made clear that initially the lower level would apply only to a relatively small group of earners. It is still unclear whether those on the national minimum wage would pay only 10p tax.

Alistair Darling, the Shadow Chief Secretary, said Tory claims about the cost of Labour's long-term plans had been plucked out of the air and bore "no relation to reality".

"The Tories lied about Labour's proposals at the last election and they are lying again today."

Leading article, page 17

Canny canines

Scientists have proved that dogs can read your mind: tests show that up to 46 per cent of them know when their masters are coming home from work and get ready to greet them. Page 3

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Islamic rally organisers warned

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BOWING to mounting pressure from MPs, Arab governments and Jewish groups, the Home Office issued a warning yesterday to organisers of an Islamic fundamentalist rally that anyone advocating violence or social unrest would be prosecuted.

In a terse statement to those intending to take part in Sunday's "Rally for Revival" the Home Office said: "The British Government condemns any statement made at the rally in support of terrorism, or violence more generally. We will ensure that the rule of law is upheld."

And it repeated a promise given to protesting Arab governments, that police and MI5 agents would monitor the London rally and gather evidence to prosecute anyone breaking the law.

The event is being organised by al-Muhajiroun, an organisation which has advocated a holy war against most governments in the Middle East and is led by Sheikh Omar Bakri Muhammad, a militant Syrian.

The speakers will include Muhammad al-Masari, the dissident Saudi physicist who recently called for the "annihilation" of Jews and who has been granted leave to stay in

Britain after the unsuccessful attempt to deport him.

One of the groups taking part, Hizb al-Tahrir (Liberation Party), has been accused of intimidation and harassment, mainly of Jews and homosexuals, in British universities, especially in the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

Many British Muslims fear that militants, claiming to speak for the 1.5 million Muslims in Britain, will strengthen prejudice against them and the association of Islam with terrorism. Supporters accuse the Government of harassment.

Tories' secret weapon scores a direct hit

By ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Prime Minister yesterday admitted that his wife would trump tax cuts or Lord Saatchi as the card up his sleeve in the run-up to the general election.

Confirming rumours that Norma Major will play a key role in attempting to secure a fifth Tory election victory, John Major said: "She has been my secret weapon for the past 26 years."

Yesterday Mrs Major sailed through the crowds like a benign duchess and rubbed shoulders with a duke on the first day of the Majors' grand tour of the Midlands. Downing Street aides insisted

that she did not want to do any walkabouts, but after half an hour chatting to patients at a doctors' surgery in Glossop about hip replacements, Mrs Major slipped into the crowd, encouraging her husband to follow. Children asked for her autograph as she chatted to their mothers about the expense of school uniforms and her husband signed a little girl's arm. A pensioner asked where she got her sunhat. "My back garden in Huntingdon," she said.

Photographers did not need to ask her to smile — she beamed. Dressed in a dusty pink suit (dead salmon in the

National Trust's paint guide) with marching nails and black patent shoes, she left Mr Major looking gauche. "Can't we have a nice picture of you two together?" a local photographer shouted. "I'm sure you have got plenty of those." Mr Major said briskly. "But not in Glossop, sir," the photographer replied. Mrs Major immediately went to her husband's side.

Next stop was the spa town of Buxton and a drink with the Duke of Devonshire, who had dressed down for the occasion in Hush Puppies, an old Prince of Wales check suit and



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Who's the only

airline to offer an

afternoon

departure from

London Gatwick

to New York?

Blair sees radical future in lessons of the past

By Peter Riddell

TONY BLAIR has been thinking a lot during the summer about the differences between Opposition and Government. By chance, he spent part of his holiday in a house in France with lots of books about British politics. He focused on the problems facing opposition leaders before elections. After reading a biography last year of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the Liberal leader at the time of the 1906 landslide, this year he dipped into biographies of Margaret Thatcher and Harold Wilson.

What struck him was the caution of pre-election commitments com-

pared with the later radicalism. Few would have predicted in 1905-06 that the Liberal Government would lay the foundations of the welfare state, or, in 1979, that the Thatcher Government would so fundamentally undermine the power of the trade unions and shift the boundaries between the public and private sectors. Mr Blair believes that a Labour government may be seen as radical as that of 1906.

After his summer break, he is relaxed and self-confident about what he wants Labour to do. He argues that if Labour achieves its main goals of reforming welfare, raising standards in schools, establishing a new role for Britain in

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Europe, creating a new partnership for government to help business and decentralising political decisions, these will represent radical achievements.

Mr Blair's problem is convincing the public of his aims and hopes while reassuring them — and his business audience yesterday — that a Labour government would be financially responsible and would not raise taxes. Labour is hypersensitive to the willingness of the Tories to turn any idea into a costly commitment that will mean higher taxes. This is causing far more

concern than the latest trivia about the leaders' wives. (There have never been any plans to give Cherie, Mr Blair's wife, a more prominent role.)

Hence, the balancing act in Labour documents and the speeches by Mr Blair and Gordon Brown at yesterday's conference on the social chapter and the minimum wage. Pledges to help the unemployed to find work and to improve infrastructure were offset by assurances that no proposals in Labour's pre-manifesto will require rises in personal tax. Many of the business-

men who have met Mr Blair will never vote for his party, but they may not regard Labour as a real demon as they did the Department of Industry under Tony Benn.

The most intriguing parallels are with 1963-64. Mr Blair cites Ben Pimlott's *Harold Wilson*: "The new Labour's early objective was to present himself both for public and party consumption, as a sensible politician who would maintain existing Labour policies, yet had a radical cutting edge. 'At present he is full of reassurance for the nervous', observed one commentator."

Wilson never succeeded in changing his party and increas-

ly had to lead despite it. By contrast, Mr Blair is optimistic about the prospects for a Labour government because he has changed the party in a way that Wilson never tried to — Clause Four has been rewritten, membership has nearly doubled and relations with the unions are on a new basis. Of course there are dissenters, with the Labour MPs being the least-changed section of the party, but the clash is more of culture and generations than of specific policies. The key to whether a Blair government can be radical and hold together in office is the willingness of the party to accept tough decisions on public spending and the reshaping of welfare.

MPs look anew at MoD sale of homes

MPs are to reopen an inquiry into the sale of Armed Forces married quarters after the decision to sell them to a consortium backed by two businessmen with links to the Conservative Party. The Commons Defence Select Committee is to demand details, amid Labour anger that the consortium, Annington Homes, is backed by the former minister Lord Younger of Prestwick, and Lord Hambro, an honorary Tory treasurer.

MP's ultimatum

Bromsgrove Conservative Association, which has given its MP, Roy Thomason, an ultimatum to "clear up his business problems or stand down from Parliament", said yesterday it had taken its decision reluctantly. "The problem is that you cannot put a man forward who is likely to become bankrupt."

Head suspended

A headmaster was under suspension last night after a report on his school by education inspectors. Adrian Gregory of North Manchester High School for Boys faces a disciplinary investigation after the Ofsted study, which is reported to be highly critical of teaching standards and the management of the school.

Feed the world

More than 40,000 people in Britain were receiving "meals on wheels" of cottage pie and lemon pudding yesterday to mark the first International Meals on Wheels Day. The same meal was sent out to the elderly in many other countries round the world. The menu was suggested by Australians.

Horn trio bailed

Two women and a man were released on police bail last night a day after the seizure of illicit rhino horns worth £2.8 million in a raid on premises in Kensington, west London. Police found 105 horns, weighing 240 kilos. The three people, who come from Cambridgeshire, were bailed to appear in eight weeks.

Drink delay

Distribution of Thickhead, a new fruit-flavoured alcoholic drink accused of encouraging underage drinking, has been stopped until a new label and packaging is produced, the makers Carlsberg-Telleys said last night. The drink was launched on Tuesday amid claims that its packaging attracted teenagers to alcohol.

Freddie's star

Freddie Mercury, the late singer with Queen, has a star named after him today on what would have been his 50th birthday. The star is in the constellation of Cassiopeia, also known as The Queen. The naming has been approved by the London branch of the International Star Registry.

Alert for woman

Concern grew yesterday for the safety of Margaret Jarvis, above, a policeman's wife who disappeared with her two children aged 5 and 8. Mrs Jarvis, 47, left a suicide note before leaving home in Nounsey, near Witham, Essex, in a Ford Fiesta (registration BVW 5171).

Police crack crime by boosting pay of key informants

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

THE recruitment of better paid informants willing to "grass" on offenders has become a key part of the police drive against crime, a government watchdog says today.

More money and a much greater use of informants has helped police officers in many parts of the country boost the number of crimes cleared up. One force has tripled its number of registered informants to 300 in the last three years, resulting in an average of two arrests a day in 1995 at an average cost in payments to informants of £70 an arrest.

The Audit Commission points to the success of Hertfordshire Constabulary as an example that could be followed by other forces. But the greater use of informants will fuel fears among civil liberties groups that Britain is becoming a nation of "narks". John Wadham, director of Liberty, said: "Do we want to live in a society where we are always watched by TV cameras, where our conversations are recorded and where neighbours are paid to snoop on us?"

But Kate Flannery, a senior Audit Commission official, called for an expansion of the use of informants by the 43 police forces in England and Wales and a more systematic approach to "running" them.

Police forces had to be more realistic about how much cash to give informants, she said. Until recently police had been paying between £5 and £10 for bits of information and the average force paid about £20,000 a year overall.

Ms Flannery called for police to provide bigger sums and to be much more active in recruiting and running informants. She said: "They should not just wait for informants to come to them but actually task the informant."

"Go to them and say 'We have a problem on a particular estate, what do you know

about it? Can you find this particular information out for us?"

She also supported allowing uniformed officers as well as non-uniformed officers to recruit informants but admitted that there was some hostility within the police towards allowing such a development. "Some chief officers are still a little wary of allowing inexperienced officers to try to control informants — there are obvious risks."

"The tradition is for detectives to run informants, but a more systematic approach is to urge all more experienced officers, uniformed or detective, to try to encourage people to become registered informants."

Informants helped Hertfordshire to increase its clear up rate for domestic burglaries by 14 percentage points between 1993-1995, the biggest improvement by any force in the country. In St Albans, the house burglary clear up rate rebounded, from 13 per cent to 39 per cent.

Chief Inspector Jeff Walklate said: "One of the ways we generate intelligence is through the use of active informants, and in this division we have put a lot of effort into cultivating informants, which has resulted in a dramatic increase in numbers."

329 held in dawn raids

Police arrested 329 people in a series of dawn raids and recovered stolen goods as well as firearms, drugs and CS gas canisters. About 1,700 officers from the Metropolitan Police helped to search 600 houses and flats in London as part of Operation Bumblebee, an anti-burglary drive launched three years ago. The recovered property included antiques, jewellery, computer chips, credit cards and passports.



Norma Major charming potential voters and their families during a walkabout in Glossop yesterday

Secret weapon wins the crowd by stealth

Continued from page 1

a woolly jumper. The Duke changed his allegiance to the SDP a decade ago but after half an hour chatting to Mrs Major on the subject of the Georgian crescent, he was smitten.

So were the crowds. Mrs Major couldn't be held back. As her husband talked to the press about Iraq, Mrs Major moved like the new stealth bomber. She had a quietly devastating effect, slipping through the crowd of shoppers, policemen with binoculars in tow. "She's much nicer than Glensy Kinnoch, much more honey, we talked about the weather," Kitty Harper, a pensioner, said. "Why have you kept

your wife locked up all these years," one man joked. Mr Major replied: "Norma has been accompanying me on tours like this for a very long time. But she now proposes to do that a good deal more in the future. I am delighted she is here. She is a very great asset to me first and then to the Conservative Party as a whole."

But best of all for the Tories, unlike stealth bombers or flashy advertising, Mrs Major comes free.

The enemy in the battle for votes confirmed yesterday that it has no intention of giving Tony Blair's wife Cherie a more prominent role. The Labour leader's advisers believe the

Tories' decision to spotlight Mrs Major will distract attention from what Mr Major is saying, and sees no need to respond in like fashion.

Mr Blair, like Mr Major, will be making a number of trips round Britain during September, but he will be on his own, as planned. Mrs Blair will concentrate on her busy, and highly successful, career as a barrister under her maiden name Cherie Booth, and on raising her young family.

She will attend the Labour conference in Blackpool but there has been no discussion about her speaking at Hillsborough or Elizabeth Dole did at the American party conventions.

Expelled pupils face hard road back

By David Charter

EXPULSED pupils will find it harder to win a reprieve under new legislation on school discipline, Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said yesterday. Appeals panels that decide whether an unruly child should be allowed back will be forced to place greater emphasis on the needs of the whole school. At present, there is no legal requirement for the interests of the school or the victim of a bully to be taken into account.

Mrs Shephard, speaking on BBC Radio Four's *World at One*, said the appeal system would be changed "to make sure that by its mechanics it allows those taking the decisions to focus not only on the interests of the individual pupil but also of all the other pupils in the school."

She criticised the tactics of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, whose members threatened to strike over two disruptive pupils this week. Mrs Shephard called the action "a pity" and said the public focus on cases in West Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire would be "totally harmful" to the children involved.

Letters, page 17

Key wetland sites endangered by industrial use

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

SOME of the country's most important rivers, lakes, fens and marshes are being sucked dry by water companies, farmers and industry, the Government's wildlife advisers reported yesterday. Up to 89 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, home to rare animals and plants, are being ruined by over-abstraction, with the damage aggravated by recent droughts.

Chris Newbold, senior wetland ecologist at English Nature, said: "We commissioned the report because we were concerned about increased demand for water abstraction affecting SSSIs. It shows that some of our most special sites could be in danger of drying out unless we can find a way to ensure that they have an adequate supply of water."

He said they were seeking meetings with the government's Environment Agency and water companies to try to avert a crisis. English Nature believes water companies should take less water from rivers, freshwaters and underground springs during the summer and store more resources in the winter. It also wants them to be more efficient and plug leaks.

Mr Newbold cited Redgrave and Lopham fen in

Suffolk, where pools have "totally dried up and we have had a fire it is so dry". He blamed over-abstraction at a borehole by Essex and Suffolk Water company.

Southport Dunes in Merseyside are drying out because of drainage from the site by a nearby golf course. "Some of the flora species are rare grasses, sedges and mosses. The drying out of the land means the dunes are being replaced by ones with deeper roots, such as willow-like species," Mr Newbold said.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said the report showed that urgent action was needed to halt damage from water abstraction. It called on the Environment Agency urgently to address the problem on all the sites, which include two RSPB reserves at Fowmere in Cambridgeshire and Dungeness in Kent.

Barbara Young, RSPB chief executive, said: "The Environment Agency must review the abstraction licences which are causing the problems and take appropriate action." The Water Services Association said it would be studying the report and discussing further action with English Nature.

Church goes Christmas shocking

Continued from page 1 language of the streets as part of the Church's mission to draw non-believers into the fold.

The Churches Advertising Network is sending brochures containing the artwork to 40,000 ministers in the Anglican, Roman Catholic and evangelical and Baptist churches. Roadside and bus stop posters, radio adverts, T-shirts, flyers, badges, Christmas cards and wrapping paper bearing the copy will start appearing next month in the run-up to Christmas. It is the work of Christians in the Media, a group of committed

Christians who work in the higher echelons of the advertising industry and give their time and expertise voluntarily. Dr Tom Ambrose, Vicar of Wicheford, in Cambridgeshire, and the campaign coordinator, said that this year they set out to provoke discussion among congregations. They wanted to get away from the "safe" campaigns of recent years.

He said: "It will be a struggle for some people in the Church to cope with this. We want it to be talked about and the more people who discuss what it is about the better." John Griffiths, a London-

based advertising executive who led the group, said it was important to adopt a different "tone of voice" and one immediately recognisable as everyday speech.

The phrase "bad hair day" — it is transatlantic speak for a lousy day where everything goes wrong — was thoroughly researched. It is an Americanism that was once used in the 1988 cult film *Hairspray*, directed by John Waters, and is now creeping into everyday parlance on Britain. Television commentators used the phrase several times in their commentary on the Olympics in Atlanta.

"It is not some bastardised form of street speak," Mr Griffiths said. "If we had said 'Happy Christmas is wicked or crucial' we could have been accused of going for the youth vote with borrowed clothes. We have not simply picked up on a buzz word. It has integrity. It is supposed to ruffle a few feathers and to unsettle them."

Some dioceses like the new theme. In Oxford, the youth office is organising "bad hair day" events. The Bishop of Aston, the Rt Rev John Austin, said: "It is a measure of the Church's commitment that they want to engage with 16 to 25-year-olds."

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مكتبة الأمل

Dogs, cats, even snakes are psychic

How Rover knows when you are about to return

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

SCIENTISTS have proved what pet owners have long suspected — that dogs can read human minds. Tests in which pets have been videotaped as their owners prepare to leave work indicate that up to 46 per cent of dogs know their masters are coming home.

The same research shows that cats share a similar but less common psychic bond. Just 14 per cent seem to know their owners have packed their briefcases. The phenomenon, typified by the pet rousing itself to the peer out of the window up to an hour before its owner returns, appears to extend to other species including a snake and a mynah bird.

The research, to be published soon, has been carried out by Rupert Sheldrake, former director of cell biology and biochemistry at Cambridge University and a Royal Society research fellow. Dr Sheldrake, author of the bestseller *Seven Experiments that Could Change the*

World, will present the findings at a meeting of the Society of Companion Animal Studies organised by the university's veterinary school on Saturday.

Dr Sheldrake said yesterday that the bond operated over scores of miles. "Some people might call this weird, but for many pet owners it is perfectly normal."

The phenomenon has emerged from a survey of 410 households in the Greater Manchester area contacted at random. About 120 dog owners reported that their pets knew when they were coming home. "We have carried out experiments with several dogs; the most exhaustive, however, has been with Jaytee, a mongrel terrier that lives with his owner in Ramsbottom, Lancashire," Dr Sheldrake said.

Jaytee, who has been owned by Pam Smart since he was a few weeks old, has almost from day one gone to the french windows of her parents' house looking for her return. Ms Smart used to have

a nine-to-five job as a school secretary. "My dad told me he did this. But I thought it was because he had a good body clock and he knew what time I was coming home."

However, a few years ago Ms Smart was made redundant and the time at which she returned home became far more erratic. Nevertheless Jaytee, who is now seven, still seemed to anticipate when his owner was on her way.

News that the research was to be undertaken came in January 1995 when the first video footage was taken of Jaytee. It was that success which prompted a wider investigation and the new findings appear to indicate the phenomenon was not a fluke.

Dr Sheldrake has carried out more than 150 experiments to try to rule out obvious explanations such as the sound of a familiar engine. Ms Smart has been paged to return home at unpredictable times while at work or out with friends. Dr Sheldrake said: "She has been coming home in different ways including by bicycle, taxi and in different cars. Typically the dog starts going to the window ten minutes before she turns on the car engine."

During 153 tests Jaytee anticipated Ms Smart's return in 80 per cent of cases. The 30 times when Jaytee failed to respond included while it was sick or distracted by a bitch on heat.

Dr Sheldrake has collected more than 1,500 case studies from around the world including a mynah bird which would cry Robbie's Coming Home when its owner was returning from an overseas trip. A snake in Germany would rouse itself before the occasional visit of a man with a tempting morsel of a mouse.



Reception committee: some pets will prepare to welcome their owner an hour before they return



Daisy Crawley, inset, and her husband Charles, a Royal Marines commando who died at Tobruk, aged 24

Widow granted visa to visit Tobruk grave 54 years after soldier's death

By Stephen Farrell

LIBYA has given a 79-year-old widow permission to visit her husband's war grave in Tobruk. Daisy Norris was granted a visa after years battling against warnings from the Foreign Office and veterans' associations.

Few Britons are allowed to visit the graves of relatives who fell in Libya during the desert campaign. Britain has no diplomatic relations with Libya and UN Security Council sanctions banning flights there are still in force.

Mrs Norris, from Beeston, Nottinghamshire, will travel alone to see the grave of her first husband, Charles Crawley. The 24-year-old Royal Marines commando died at Tobruk on September 14, 1942, without ever seeing his

month-old son Stephen. He lies among the 2,282 graves tended by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Tobruk.

Mrs Norris had almost given up hope but on Tuesday she received a telephone call from the Saudi embassy in London, which deals with Libyan matters. "I can't believe it has happened, I was speechless when they told me I could have a visa. So many times I thought it would happen and it didn't," she said.

"Everyone has told me not to go over the years. The Royal British Legion said no pilgrims were allowed because Colonel Gaddafi had closed the border. The Foreign Office said I



Mrs Norris: unafraid

couldn't go because it was an enemy country. Now I am just going to go on my own. I have no quarrel with Colonel Gaddafi or his country."

Mrs Norris does not yet know when she can go. She will collect her visa on Mon-

day and hopes to cross the border from Tunisia, where she will be on holiday in November. She remarried after the war and began to think about visiting the grave after her second husband died of cancer in 1970.

Although veterans from other Commonwealth countries have visited the cemeteries in Tobruk, Tripoli, Benghazi and Acroma, British groups have been frustrated.

Mrs Norris insists she is aware of the risks of travelling alone. "I have been taking chances all my life and I'm 79, so I don't think it matters very much now. He was my first young man, my first love and my first husband and there was no end. I never even got a chance to say goodbye."

Girl given legal aid to tackle parents over ban

By Paul Wilkinson and Frances Gibb

A SCHOOLGIRL has been granted legal aid to challenge her parents' ban on seeing her younger brother, sister and the family dog which was imposed when she walked out to live with her boyfriend.

The girl, aged 16, said: "I don't want to see my mum and dad, just my brother, sister and dog. My mum says she has disowned me and I had no right to see them." Her mother described the situation as just "teenage attention-seeking" and said she could go home at any time.

However, at Teesside family court yesterday, Michael Manning, the girl's solicitor, made a formal application for leave to apply for contact. The magistrate agreed to a request from the girl's mother and stepfather for an adjournment when they said they had not had sufficient time to seek legal advice.

The girl, who cannot be named for legal reasons, is an A-level student in Cleveland. She left home in April to move in with her boyfriend less than a mile away. She maintains that since then her mother has refused to allow her to see her brother, 7, and sister, 6.

She said: "I've been very upset and cannot wait to see my brother and sister. I'm very close to the children."

She took the case to her local law centre and was put in touch with Mr Manning, who described the case as "unusual". The action is the latest to be brought by a child under the Children Act 1989, which for the first time enabled children to instruct lawyers and initiate legal actions. It also assessed them for legal aid on their own merits.

But under the Government's proposed legal aid reforms, it is just the kind of case that the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, would like to see settled by mediation rather than in the courts. It is also the kind of case that could fail the proposed new "deservingness" test, which will make it harder to obtain legal aid — especially if mediation had not been tried.

Mr Manning said: "It is impossible to put an accurate figure on the cost of such a case. It could involve instructing counsel, it could be transferred to a higher court. You could find a bill of costs in excess of £1,000."

The Legal Aid Bill puts a new emphasis on mediation as a way of settling disputes. Lawyers and advice centres will be encouraged to direct people, where possible, to resolving disputes via mediation and out of court.

Hermit daughter mesmerised family

By Kathryn Knight

A WOMAN who lived as a recluse in her bedroom for 14 years exerted such influence over her family that they agreed a suicide pact after her death, an inquest was told yesterday. Police called to the house after Karen Morgan died and her brother tried to kill himself found suicide notes signed by him and his parents.

Miss Morgan, 29, turned her back on the outside world at the age of 15 and lived on bare floorboards at the family home in Bexley, southeast London. She refused to see her father, Bob, or brother and terrorised her mother, Josie, into following strange rituals when bringing her

food. Her death from a brain tumour was discovered when her younger brother, Russell, called for an ambulance after taking an overdose of paracetamol. She had been dead for three days.

Detective Inspector Rob Harrall told the inquest at Croydon: "Karen had various rituals and we found letters from her with page after page of repeated demands to her parents." She would scream if they were not fulfilled. She exerted such influence over her family that she did not allow her father or brother to see her for the last eight years of her life. Miss Morgan also became obsessed with rituals in which she would wash and scrub herself for hours and

insist her mother do the same before she brought her food. Then she would remain in squalor in her room.

Dr Rufus Crompton, a pathologist, said she had wasted calf muscles — "she could not have walked for quite some time" — and her teeth were badly decayed.

The coroner, Paul Rose, said he had heard "a quite extraordinary story". He was "extremely concerned with regards to social services as it appears they had no power to intervene in this situation because nothing untoward was happening." Miss Morgan had died as a result of bronchial pneumonia and a brain tumour. He recorded a verdict of death by natural causes.

Surveillance 'prevented diplomat destroying paedophile videos'

A SENIOR diplomat told a jury yesterday that he had been unable to destroy his large collection of paedophile videos in Japan because he was being kept under surveillance.

Robert Coghlan, a divorced father of two, who denies illegally importing obscene material into Britain, said he was uncertain who was watching him. It might have been the police, he told Southwark Crown Court, adding: "I have

been in office long enough to know that I was being followed." He rejected suggestions that he was sexually interested in children.

Mr Coghlan, 54, a press attaché, said he bought most of the tapes unintentionally during a 4½-year stint as First Secretary in the information department of the British Embassy in Tokyo. He said he had desperately tried to think of a way to get rid of them. Aware that if the hoard was

discovered it would mean the end of a distinguished 30-year career, he considered dumping it on a rubbish tip.

That option, as well as returning the £20 tapes to a sex shop, was ruled out by the fear he was being watched. He first realised the tapes were in Britain when, after a month-long holiday, he was asked to fill in a Customs clearance form by a shipping agent.

The case continues.

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Celibacy will no longer be required, say Catholic priests

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CELIBACY will eventually be abandoned as a necessity for Roman Catholic clergy, because of the many former Anglican clergy being ordained to the Catholic priesthood, it was predicted yesterday.

The influx of one-time Anglican vicars, some with wives and families, was lowering morale among Catholic clergy who had spent years being taught to cultivate celibacy as part of their vocation, according to priests meeting at their annual conference in Birmingham. Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, is preparing to ordain several former Anglicans later this year. The Catholic priests are angry because they say they were not consulted by bishops over the matter. The Pope has granted special permission for the ordinations.

"We were not asked. They have just been imposed on us," said one priest, who gave warning that the arrival of married priests was demoralising their Catholic colleagues in neighbouring parishes who could not marry unless they

left the priesthood. "It also means the issue of married priests is now settled," he added. "It is inevitable now that the Church will allow its priests to marry."

He said that most of the Catholic laity had accepted the concept of married priests. "There has been a sea-change. In a parish where a priest maybe has an affair which results in a child, and has to leave, the congregation will no longer consider him to be in disgrace, as they did until recently. Instead, they will hold collections to help him support his new family."

The priest added: "I know of one such parish where the congregation could not understand why their priest had to leave, simply for being a human being. Congregations are now relieved when they discover their priest is interested in women."

According to a paper debated by the 80 priests, meeting at Newman College, morale is low among many priests, who feel overworked. "Priests often feel they are like a piggy-

in-the-middle, standing in the breach in a time of rapid cultural and ecclesial change," Father Paul Crowe writes.

Although priests are declining in number, they are not allowed to discuss solutions, "namely the ordination of married men", he says. Priests are lonely and want help to deal with their "legitimate need for intimacy", he says.

The psychologist Father Brendan Callaghan, SJ, said "questions" needed to be asked about the Church's insistence on celibacy. "It may be to the point to remind ourselves that up to 1074 it was legitimate for a married man to be a deacon, priest or a bishop." He predicted that ordinations of married priests from other churches would lead to celibacy being dropped as a requirement.

□ The Rev Tana Riviere, whose licence was revoked after she married her vicar within a year of his divorce, is taking the Bishops of Winchester and Southampton to an industrial tribunal claiming sexual discrimination.



Scottish artist Alexander Goudie with one of his Tam O'Shanter paintings

Scots art champion heads for hat-trick with Tam O'Shanter

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

TIMOTHY Clifford, the director of the National Galleries of Scotland, is heading for a hat-trick of important acquisitions in two years. Less than three weeks after saving for the nation the £2 million 17th century masterpiece by Il Guercino, *Erminia Finding the Wounded Tancréd*, he announced plans to buy the bulk of a series of 57 paintings by contemporary Scottish artist Alexander Goudie.

in order to keep the sequence together and, most importantly, in Scotland. Mr Clifford also stopped Canova's sculpture *Three Graces* from being exported last year.

The themed Goudie collection, worth around £620,000, portrays scenes from the Robert Burns poem *Tam O'Shanter* and has been on show at the Freemasons' Hall in Edinburgh during the festival. Mr Clifford, who viewed the paintings only ten days ago and instantly decid-

ed to buy them, has already written to the Scottish Arts Council, which administers the Arts Lottery Fund, with a request for cash. "They are an enchanting series of pictures. And in this year of all years, the bi-centenary of Burns' death, I thought it right to announce we are keen to buy them," said Mr Clifford.

The Scottish Arts Council will not make a decision until December. The pictures would probably go to the new National Gallery in Glasgow.

Heart girl died after two-year wait for surgery

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A TWO-YEAR-OLD girl born with a rare heart defect who died suddenly after waiting all her life for corrective surgery did not get the treatment expected from the NHS, a coroner said yesterday.

Natalie Kelley had waited for surgery at Killingbeck hospital, Leeds, since being diagnosed shortly after birth with pulmonary atresia, in which the artery between the heart and lungs is narrowed, causing shortness of breath. Doctors said that her condition was not serious and kept postponing the operation. But last June she collapsed at her home in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, and died in hospital from a blood clot lodged in the artery.

Dr John Gibbs, a consultant paediatric cardiologist at Killingbeck, told an inquest yesterday that Natalie's death was totally unexpected. He never believed her to be in immediate danger and so did not move her higher up the waiting list or transfer her to a hospital where she could have had surgery sooner.

"There was never any sign that her condition would deteriorate in the way that it did," Dr Gibbs said. "In 15 years as a heart physician, I have never known such a young patient die of a blood clot in this way." Recording a verdict of death by natural causes, James Turnbull, the coroner, said: "Humanity is not perfect and sadly the system in this case does not seem to have provided the service expected. As science and expertise expands more kinds of treatments will be developed."

Natalie's mother, Sadie Kelley, said afterwards that she blamed the NHS and was considering legal action. "Nothing has been said which convinces me that Natalie would have died anyway. She died because she had to wait too long for her operation."

CORRECTIONS

□ The smoky vehicles pollution hotline (report, August 19) is for lorries and buses only. Drivers failing a roadside emission test are given 14 days to carry out repairs and obtain a new MOT test certificate. The new hotline number for Scotland is 01506 45216.

□ Sir Roger Parker conducted the Windscale Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing inquiry of 1977, not Michael Parker (report, August 29).

□ Eleanor Roosevelt addressed the Democratic convention 15 years after leaving the White House, not 25 (report, August 29).

CSA orders man to pay 17p a day for children

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

A WOMAN has accused the Child Support Agency of making her former lover pay only 17p a day for each of their two children.

Catherine Hackitt, from White Stone, Warwickshire, who is living on income support, said Aled Anwyl, a hill farmer whose cattle have lost value because of the BSE crisis, had been ordered to send her £1.15 a week for each child. "It is an insult," she said. "I don't want blood money. All I want is a fair contribution."

The couple met in a pub near Mr Anwyl's farm in Llanbrynmair, West Glamorgan, and had two children. They separated soon after their daughter was born in 1993.

Mr Anwyl, 40, said: "The BSE scare has hit all the farmers in the area hard. I would like to do more for the children but at the moment it isn't possible."

A spokeswoman for the agency declined to comment on the case but said that if either party felt unhappy they could apply for a reassessment.

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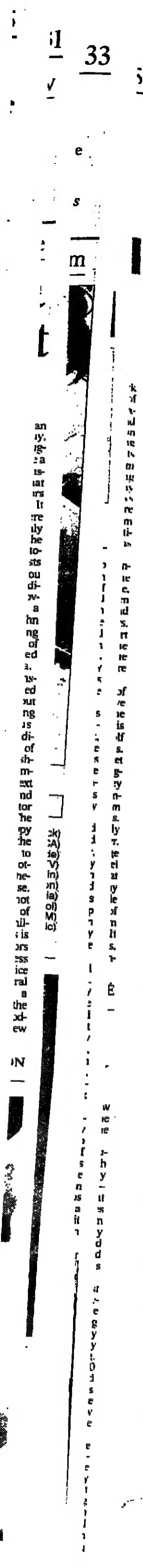
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Garrison unearthed in Sussex

Discovery of lost Roman camp 'may rewrite history'

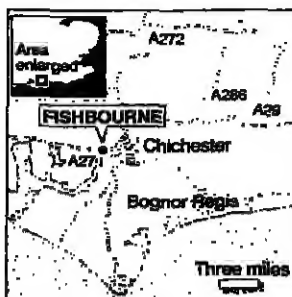
By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT, AND BILL FROST

THE Roman invasion of Britain in AD 43 took place on two fronts with the legions trapping their prey in a classic pincer movement, new evidence suggests.

The only bridgehead was believed to have been at Richborough in Kent, but the remains of a substantial military garrison have now been uncovered much further west, suggesting that the main thrust of the invasion may have centred on Sussex. The size of the stone-built camp near Fishbourne Roman palace in West Sussex suggests a substantial military presence.

The find, announced by the Sussex Archaeological Society, which owns the palace site, "will have enormous importance for our understanding of Fishbourne but also, more widely, for our thinking on the Roman invasion," said John Manley, head of the society.

Excavations have revealed the ground plan of a large stone building, some 35 by 25 metres, with an internal courtyard flanked by corridors. A large hall or basilica on the east was divided to create a large central room with a



sunken central feature. The overall plan had parallels with Roman military headquarters, known as *principles*, Mr Manley said. The interpretation would be strengthened if the sunken feature was a *saeculum* or strongroom, in which the soldiers' payroll would have been kept, together with the standards or insignia of the legion.

"It is now not a possibility, but a strong probability that the invasion was on two fronts. Rome split the force between Kent and Sussex to squeeze the Britons," Mr Manley added. "The documentary evidence was ambiguous but, given the size of this garrison, I would say that the

history books will have to be rewritten."

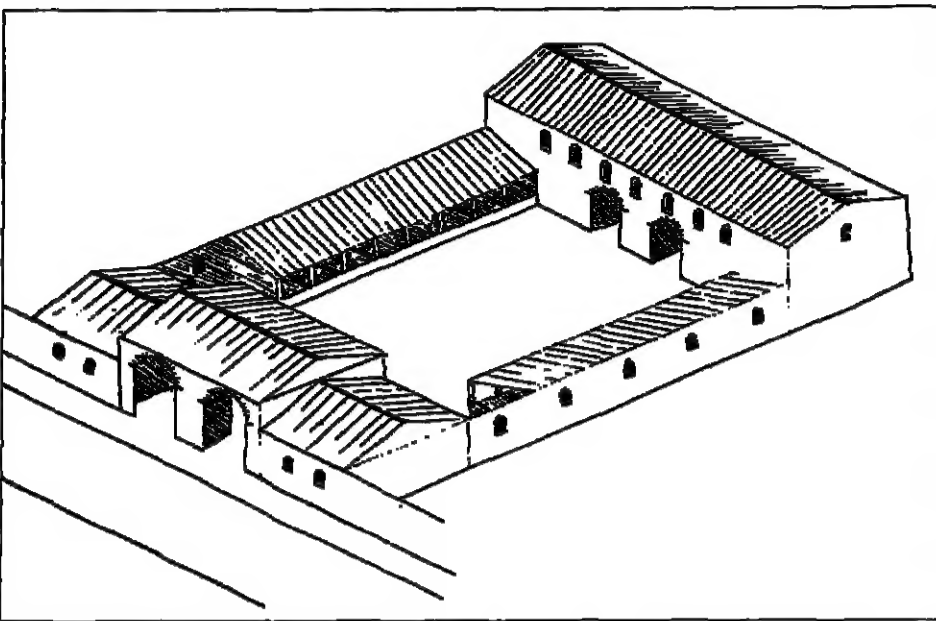
According to Mr Manley, the building would also suggest an unexpectedly lengthy occupation of what is now West Sussex by the Roman legions and support the thesis that a main thrust of the invasion came through Chichester harbour, as well as further east in Kent.

This would also challenge the accepted view that Cogidubnus, King of the Regnenses, brought his people under the sway of Rome in AD 43-45 without a fight. The magnificent Fishbourne palace, excavated by Professor Barry Cunliffe in the 1960s, had been thought to be Cogidubnus's reward for what some contemporaries must have regarded as treason.

The British Museum declined to comment last night on the significance of the find until a full survey of the site had been undertaken. The society is planning further excavations next year. "There may well be other military buildings there — if there are, that will add further weight to our theory," said Mr Manley.



Archaeologists at work excavating the remains of a major Roman garrison found in West Sussex; below, an artist's impression of how the fortress might have looked



Five teams left in contest to restart heart of bomb city

By MARCUS BINNEY AND KATE ALDERSON

FIVE teams of architects and urban designers were yesterday shortlisted in the contest to redesign the centre of Manchester after the IRA bomb that devastated the heart of the city in June.

They have been given £20,000 and six weeks to produce a plan to transform the city centre with parks, plazas, riverside cafes, shops, cycle lanes, tourist attractions, and better access for public transport. Empty warehouses and factory buildings could provide homes. The partnerships, announced by Sir Alan Cockshaw, chairman of Manchester Millennium, were drawn from 27 entries in an international competition.

The engineers Alan Baxter Associates, who specialise in historic buildings, propose a series of public spaces reinforcing the medieval part of the city. Another team includes Benjamin Thompson Associates of Cambridge, Massachusetts, who were behind successful projects to revive inner-city areas in America. They could provide a vibrant alternative to the grim Arndale shopping centre, and plan to make Piccadilly Gardens, a soulless and under-used square, an events arena.

A third team includes Halliday Meecham Architects, a Cheshire-based firm specialising in urban planning and waterside design.

Working with Richard Reid Associates, based in Kent, they want to deter private traffic from entering the city centre.

The consortium of Llewellyn Davies, Michael Hyde & Associates, JMP Consultants Ltd, Derek Lovejoy Partnership PLC, Roger Tym & Partners Ltd and DTZ Debenham Thorpe, is dominated by companies based in Manchester. They envisage a piazza near the cathedral, an urban village, a city park and arcades and canopies for the Arndale Centre.

Building Design Partnership and Donaldsons propose a city of "landmarks, views and vistas". They would recreate a cultural heart centred on the cathedral and Chetham's School of Music. The Metrolink system would be expanded and certain streets closed to traffic.

The Marks and Spencer store and its office tower, near the site of the massive blast, is to be demolished, as is the neighbouring Royal Insurance building. The Corn Exchange and Royal Exchange, two historic buildings extensively damaged in the blast, should be restored.

The leader of Manchester City Council, Richard Leese, said the rebuilding project constituted "an opportunity no city has had in this country for 40 or 50 years". The winner will be awarded £50,000.

Prisoner fails in challenge on early release

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE High Court yesterday rejected a prisoner's application to take a test case on early release before the law lords, describing it as "absurd and nonsensical and wholly unarguable".

Lord Justice Simon Brown conceded that there could be ambiguities in the 1967 Criminal Justice Act and suggested that the Government consider early legislation to clarify the law on the release of prisoners.

Two High Court judges gave detailed reasons for a decision last week in support of Michael Howard's ending of the fiasco in which 537 inmates had their sentences shortened. The early releases began after the Prison Service was advised that offenders serving consecutive sentences should have time spent on remand taken off each sentence rather than just one.

But yesterday Lord Justice Brown rejected a call for the House of Lords to consider as a matter of public importance the interpretation of the law on the release of prisoners in England and Wales.

Peter Weatherby, appearing for John Naughton, an inmate at Lindholme jail near Doncaster, said: "It is clearly a matter which affects thousands of serving prisoners, perhaps tens of thousands of ex-prisoners. It is a matter which has created grave disquiet in the community."

Lord Justice Brown refused to certify that a point of public importance had been raised. He said: "We have described the applicant's contention [for early release] variously as absurd and nonsensical and wholly unarguable. With no

hesitation in those circumstances we conclude it would be entirely inappropriate to certify a point of law of general importance."

The written judgment means that the challenge can go no further. Ann Widdecombe, the Prisons Minister, said: "The matter is now closed."

Lord Justice Brown said that one had only to give an example of the consequences to recognise the absurdity of the Naughton argument. If one of two co-defendants sentenced to five-year consecutive terms had been remanded in custody for a year while the other was on bail, he would go free while his accomplice went to jail for five years. "Really such a situation is too absurd to contemplate," he said.

Mr Justice Poplewell said that Mr Weatherby had argued that any ambiguity in the law affecting a person's liberty should be construed in favour of the accused. That was "a valid consideration" but it was equally important "to interpret legislation, so far as possible, to equate with common sense". He added: "Happily common sense is still, I believe, a part of English common law."

The judges highlighted continuing problems for the Government over the release of inmates who are serving concurrent sentences. Lord Justice Brown suggested that the Home Secretary clarify the position with new legislation. He admitted that there might be ambiguity in the language of section 67 of the 1967 Criminal Justice Act with regard to the correct treatment of concurrent sentence cases.

Dock Green gives way to the Internet

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

LOCAL police stations with their traditional blue lamps and front counters will be replaced by hole-in-the-wall video links or Internet connections, a chief constable forecast yesterday.

John Newing, Chief Constable of Derbyshire and national police spokesman on technology, said that over the next 15 years forces facing cash pressures would close smaller stations and shut down main ones at the public would be able to contact stations by using video links set in walls or kiosks in shopping malls with electronic links to police control centres. Technology already allows two-way conversation by video and several police kiosks with links are being tested.

Mr Newing told an international policewomen's conference in Birmingham that the Internet would allow the

police to reach the public in their homes. People could file crime reports or check on the progress of investigations using computer links.

He said closures would free officers from station bureaucracy to go back on the streets, which was what the public wanted. He believed people would accept change.

If local stations were closed permanently police resources would be centralised. He said: "I don't see the public becoming worried provided they are getting a better service."

Women police are harder working and better qualified than their male colleagues but still suffer discrimination, according to an international survey out yesterday. In Britain, 79 per cent complained of sexual harassment but only 19 per cent thought they were discriminated against over promotion.

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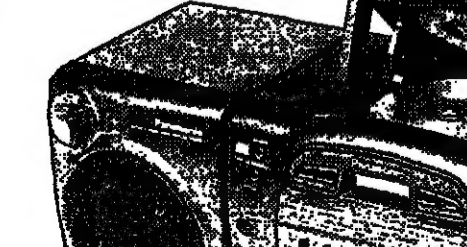
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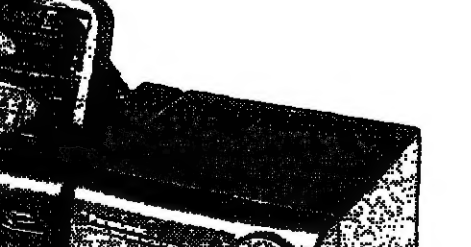
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Ex-MoD scientist attacks funding

Crisis over BSE
'caught ministers
totally off guard'By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

MINISTERS were caught completely off guard by the outbreak of mad cow disease, a former chief scientist at the Ministry of Defence said yesterday.

Sir Ronald Oxburgh, Rector of Imperial College, London, said very little research had been done before BSE 'caught us unawares'. Most of the research had been done in only a few places and had been highly academic.

'Overnight it became absolutely vital and it became apparent that we should have been doing much more research for years,' Sir Ronald said at the launch of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, of which he is president.

Ministers dealing with the crisis had little experience of handling scientific advice or fitting it into government policy, he said. The realisation that BSE was a major crisis had dawned on them only this year, whereas it should have been apparent from 1986, when the first cases appeared.

Sir Ronald said Britain had

A FARMER shot himself dead because he was worried that 'mad cow' disease would ruin his business, an inquest was told yesterday. Wendy Rodney, whose husband William, 49, reared 300 beef cattle and 3,000 sheep near Hecley in the Yorkshire Dales, said he had returned from market in despair after discovering that cattle prices had halved. His body was found in a sheep pen the next day with a shotgun. The coroner at Richmond, North Yorkshire, recorded a verdict of suicide.

tended to lag behind other countries in funding agricultural research. 'We did underinvest, when compared with other leading scientific nations,' he said. He said that if research spending as a whole continued on its present path, Britain would no longer be in the top five scientific nations in ten years' time.

Sir Ronald, who was chief scientific adviser to the Ministry of Defence from 1988-93, said that when Baroness

Thatcher was Prime Minister, many ministers were terrified of being challenged by her on their understanding of science. 'I spent a lot of time briefing ministers with basic science, so they could avoid being handbagged,' he said.

The BSE experience 'may have given politicians a better feeling for the limitations of science'. 'We must get away from the idea that science can give us all the answers. That emerged after the war, in the Fifties and Sixties, and it's nonsense,' Sir Ronald said.

He was critical of the decision to cut spending by universities on the maintenance of laboratories, imposed last year by the Department for Education and Employment. 'The DfEE was persuaded by the Treasury that private finance would replace the money but it now realises it made a serious mistake.'

The British Association meeting opens at Birmingham University on Sunday. More than 400 lecturers will address thousands of participants in Britain's biggest annual science festival. Local families are being invited to launch the festival in a fun day at the campus on Sunday.



Lisa Potts with victim Ahmed Malik and his sister Marium yesterday

Machete victims back to school

THREE children injured by a man wielding a machete as they held a teddy bears picnic in their school playground were back at their desks yesterday after making a full recovery. Lisa Potts, 21, a nursery nurse who suffered serious injuries to her arms and back while trying to

protect the children, will return to school in a few weeks. She was praised by police and colleagues for her actions.

Security has been stepped up at St Luke's Church of England School in Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, as a result of the attack on

July 8. The children injured were classmates Reena Chopra and Francesca Quintyne, both aged four, and Ahmed Malik, three. Four adults, including Miss Potts, were hurt.

A man has been charged with seven counts of attempted murder.

New-born
baby has
ear for
a melodyBy Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

BABIES already have a taste in music at the age of four months, American psychologists have discovered. Like most adults, they dislike atonal music full of dissonances, preferring the sweeter sounds of consonant tones, as in traditional Western music.

This suggests that the taste for melodious sounds is in-born rather than learnt. Modern composers from Schoenberg onwards have argued that the preference is acquired through exposure to traditional music, and that those exposed to dissonance would soon learn to love it.

Marcel Zenner and Jerome Kagan of the psychology department at Harvard put the claim to the test by exposing 32 infants — 16 of each sex — to a tune played in two different ways through a computer-controlled music synthesiser. The consonant version was played in major thirds, the dissonant version in minor seconds; the minor second is reckoned to be the most dissonant.

Each of the infants was placed in a seat facing the loudspeaker, which was covered with an attractive pattern of concentric circles. The psychologists watched to see how long the babies' eyes remained fixed on the patterns as the music was played. They found that the babies gazed longer at the patterns during the consonant version than the dissonant one. They also remained much quieter, moving less while the consonant version was played.

According to the scientists writing in *Nature*, this suggests that the babies actually prefer the smoother chords of the consonant music. To check whether this might be due to some of the babies having heard a lot of music, even at such a tender age, a questionnaire was given to their parents. The results showed that there was no relation between previous exposure to music and behaviour in the experiment.

'We suggest that the human infant may possess a biological preparedness that makes consonance perceptually more attractive than dissonance,' they say.



Zoya: a model future

A-level girl
takes a
catwalk
to stardom

A TEENAGER who five years ago spurned an opportunity to join a leading model agency yesterday won a competition for a contract with the agency.

Zoya Todorovic, 18, heard the news while on the catwalk in a show of clothes designed by students from the Central St Martins College of Art and Design in London. The 5ft 11in brunette, who achieved three As in her A-levels, said: 'I never expected to win. It hasn't sunk in yet.'

Zoya and her family moved to Britain from Belgrade when she was 2½. Since her early teens she has been approached by talent scouts, including Fiona Ellis of Models 1, which organized the competition. Miss Ellis saw Zoya in the Portobello Road Market, London, and gave her the then 13-year-old her card. But Zoya, who was not initially interested in modelling, did not ring back.

Miss Ellis said: 'I was delighted when she entered this competition. Zoya has a fantastic face and an incredible bone structure. Her face is like a blank canvas.'

Despite the contract Zoya, whose mother modelled in the Sixties, wants to apply to Oxford or Cambridge to study economics. She said: 'I want to keep my feet on the ground. I would like to be a model but I want to keep my options open.'

Zoya, from Isleworth, west London, was one of five finalists in the New Faces of the Future competition partly sponsored by Walt Disney to mark the video release of *101 Dalmatians*.

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Shipwreck
skipper
charged

Mark Litchfield, 55, from Boxley, Kent, captain of the world's oldest active square-rigged sailing vessel, *Maria Asumpta*, was charged at Bodmin Magistrates' Court with the manslaughter of Ann Taylor, 55, from Wallingford, Oxfordshire; John Shannon, 24, from Queensland, Australia; and Emily MacFarlane, 19, from Felixstowe, Suffolk.

The charges arise from the ship's wrecking on the Cornish coast last year.

Lottery online

Camelot, the National Lottery organiser, has opened a web site on the Internet — www.national-lottery.co.uk — providing information including draw results, the odds of winning and details of funding for good causes.

Soap star 'poorly'

The actress Jill Summers, who plays Phyllis Pearce in *Coronation Street*, is 'poorly but stable' in hospital in Salford, Greater Manchester, where she was admitted on Tuesday. Miss Summers, 85, has a history of heart trouble.

Savings stolen

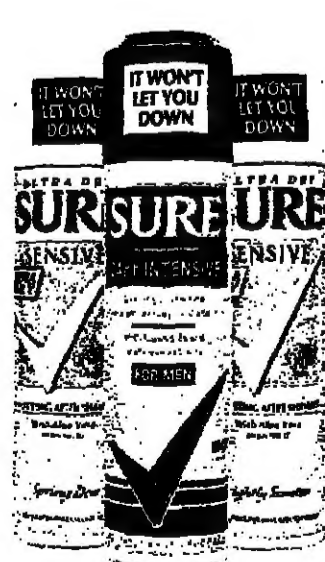
A 70-year-old woman lost her life savings of £6,000 when her handbag was snatched from a Liverpool restaurant. She had just withdrawn the money from her building society to spend on a trip to visit relatives in Canada.

Murder remand

A second man appeared in court yesterday charged with the murder of Lucy Burchell, 16, whose body was found dumped behind a nightclub in Birmingham. Tahir Khan, 26, was remanded in custody until September 10.

Kidd responds

Eddie Kidd, the motorcycle stunt rider injured in a crash three weeks ago, has been taken off a life-support machine and moved from the intensive care unit of Newcastle

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Dixons

There's a great deal going on

BBC revives the art of storytelling, dismissed last year as being of 'only limited appeal'

Jackanory to relive its finest quarter hours

By CAROL MIDDLEY

THE disappearing art of children's storytelling is to be revived in a re-run of vintage Jackanory programmes.

BBC1, which suspended the tea-time show last year, is to screen a series of "heritage" repeats which it says reflects the fact that, even in an age of sophisticated computer games, today's children value traditional story-telling.

A collection of programmes to be shown this autumn will include presentations by Dame Judi Dench, the late Kenneth Williams and Bernard Cribbins who, having clocked up 111 appearances, holds the record for reading the most Jackanory stories.

The move follows the BBC's decision last year to shelve the 31-year-old show. A strategy document declared that programmes rooted in traditional book-based story-telling were "of only limited appeal to children". Anna Home, head of BBC Television children's programmes, said yesterday that stories were still important to children, hence Jackanory Gold. In her book, *Into the Box of Delights*, she writes: "Watching television encouraged children towards



Telling performances: Dame Judi Dench and Bernard Cribbins. He made the most appearances

books. This was always the thinking behind Jackanory." A spokeswoman for BBC Children's TV added: "Jackanory was never axed. There has just been a break in production and no decision has been made about whether it will be brought back."

When the programme began in 1965 it was designed to help the growing number of working mothers to keep their children entertained. Within a few years the 15-minute slot had become an institution and celebrities deemed it an

honour to be asked to appear. Viewing figures reached almost five million. In 1984, the Prince of Wales read his children's book *The Old Man of Lochnagar*.

The Jackanory repeats will be screened on BBC2 on Sundays at 8.30am. They will include Arthur Lowe reading *The Emperor's Oblong Pancake* and Jan Francis re-reading the first story ever told on Jackanory, *Cap of Rushes*. The Prince of Wales's programme will not be shown. At the launch of the

children's television schedule for autumn yesterday, Ms Home said there was an emphasis on classic drama and old-fashioned entertainment. It includes a Sunday teatime dramatisation of Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper* starring Keith Michell playing Henry VIII for the fifth time. *The Queen's Nose* and *The Demon Headmaster* return on weekdays. "I believe that the success of these dramas proves that children still want traditional stories well told," Ms Home said.

Channel 4 has joined forces with Waterstone's bookshops to find out what the public thinks are the greatest books of the 20th century. Ballot boxes will be stationed in every Waterstone's store until October 11 and Channel 4 will be broadcasting 15 programmes in which authors and celebrities talk about their favourite books from this century.

They include Jackie Collins, who has chosen Enid Blyton's *The Magic Faraway Tree*, and Ruth Rendell who nominated Ford Madox Ford's *The Good Soldier*.

Television, page 43



The Prince of Wales, who read his book *The Old Man of Lochnagar* in 1984

Women's pay victory may cost councils millions

By IAN MURRAY
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN have won the right to overtime pay in a test case which threatens to add millions of pounds to council wage bills.

It is the third case in the past year in which the courts have backed equal-pay claims by part-time women workers. The 54 home carers, employed by Knowsley council on Merseyside, fought their case at an industrial tribunal, demanding to be paid the same rates as male workers in comparable jobs. They complained that they had been threatened with dismissal if they did not give up their overtime pay and accept a flat rate for working all hours, including weekends, Bank Holidays and evenings. Binmen and school caretakers continued to receive overtime payments.

In a written ruling yesterday, the tribunal said: "They are low-paid women in a market unsympathetic to them. Their agreement to the new arrangements did not amount to a genuine material factor which was not the difference of sex."

"They agreed to what was impermissible. The provisions of the Equal Pay Act supersede their agreement." Unison, the public service union which backed the case, said the women could receive up to £500,000 in back pay between them. Paul Haunch, Unison's regional officer, said: "I am delighted that we have proved the council's actions were illegal."

This settlement sends a clear signal to the council and other employers that they cannot pick on low-paid women workers and get away with it. Home carers perform a valuable service to the community and the council were trying to exploit their dedication and commitment to their clients, many of whom are the most vulnerable in our society."

Knowsley council said last night that the back pay would be "considerably less" than the union estimate. The council, which may appeal, said that the union had gone back on an agreement to accept a flat-rate pay scale for carers.

Last year the House of Lords ruled that North Yorkshire County Council had breached the Equal Pay Act when it cut the wages of school dinner ladies to compete with catering bids by private contractors.

Three months ago the Court of Appeal found that Cleveland County Council had been guilty of sexual discrimination in cutting dinner ladies' pay to reduce costs.

Drugs overdose was final tragedy in young stockbroker's life

By PETER FOSTER



Layton: injected heroin

A YOUNG stockbroker who died from a heroin overdose had suffered a string of personal tragedies, an inquest was told yesterday. Giles Layton, 24, was found on the floor of his bedroom with a hypodermic needle by his side in April.

Dr Timothy Cotton, Mr Layton's GP, told the inquest at Winchester that he was brought up by his mother after his father committed suicide when he was two months old. In the summer of 1994, Mrs Layton died of cancer; last year, Mr Layton's best

friend died. Mr Layton had also been deeply upset by the death of his girlfriend, Heidi Arturi, 22, who killed herself when he tried to end their relationship. Miss Arturi hung herself with his scarf in his former flat in Winchester.

Dr Cotton said Mr Layton had been expelled from Winchester College for borrowing money from fellow pupils to feed his addiction to fruit machines. He had seen a child psychologist after stealing £750 from his mother. After her death, he made several suicide attempts and was prescribed anti-depressant drugs. Dr

Cotton added: "He felt directly responsible for Miss Arturi's death because she had said if he did not marry her she would kill herself. He felt he was on a downhill spiral."

On the night of his death, Mr Layton had been drinking in Winchester with his close friend Peregrine Nunes Carvalho. The two had met at school in 1979 and kept in touch, meeting up at least one weekend a month. In a statement to police, Mr Carvalho, who declined to attend the inquest, said they had returned to Mr Layton's flat and injected heroin. He said his friend

took a shot of the drug and then promised to take a second.

Mr Carvalho, who said he had not taken heroin before, awoke at 7.30 the next morning and discovered his friend slumped forward on the floor. "I thought he was going to be very uncomfortable sat like that so I nudged him, but he didn't move. He was cold and stiff." A post-mortem examination showed that Mr Layton had a very high level of morphine in his blood.

His flatmate, Paul Houghton, 49, a chef, told the inquest: "He was a happy go-lucky person who was

doing well for himself. He always looked after himself and ate well. He had a flat, car and job and things seemed to be working out well for him." He knew Mr Layton had smoked cannabis but was sure he was not a regular heroin user.

Recording an open verdict, Simon Burch, the assistant deputy coroner for Mid Hampshire, said: "There is no evidence that he intended to take his own life on this occasion, but it is possible that the balance of his mind was disturbed by alcohol. It may be that he did not care very much whether he lived or died."

Thrifty camper spurns site and picks shocking place to pitch tent

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A CAMPER survived a 33,000 volt shock when he pitched his tent inside an electricity sub-station after deciding to save money by not using a nearby campsite. The holidaymaker, aged 23, ignored the danger signs and scaled a pair of 9ft high spiked fences to get into the site near Norwich at night. It seems he suffered a massive shock while lifting his metal tent pole, which probably touched high voltage equipment in the darkness. The

alarm was raised by a passer-by who saw a flash and heard the man cry out. An ambulance crew had to wait for firemen to release him. The camper, whom police will not identify, suffered burns to his hands and was sent to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

David Betteridge, spokesman for Eastern Electricity, said: "This man is extremely lucky to be alive. To escape with only minor burns is extraordinarily fortunate. Sub-stations are extremely dangerous. It is difficult to

imagine a more unsuitable place to put up a tent for the night."

The spokesman added: "He could have got a shock just from moving his pole too close to some of the electrical gear. It need not necessarily have touched it. It is possible his life was saved by his tent pole touching the ground so much of the voltage was earthed."

A Norfolk police spokesman said: "This man has been told in no uncertain terms that he should not have been in the sub-station."

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Loyalists fear fresh attacks from resurgent INLA

PROTESTANTS are braced for attacks by republican terrorists after the Irish National Liberation Army ended an internal feud by murdering one of its former leaders, a prominent loyalist said yesterday.

Security sources voiced fears that the killing could lead to the fragile peace in Northern Ireland being broken by a twin threat from republican and loyalist extremists. David Ervine, main spokesman for the Progressive Unionist Party, political wing of the Ulster Volunteer Force, said he feared that the INLA would try to "weld itself together" by attacking loyalists. His comments came after gunmen from the Belfast Brigade faction of the INLA murdered Hugh Torney, 42, the organisation's former chief of staff, in Lurgan, Co Armagh, on

The ending of one feud among republican terrorists and the threat of another starting among loyalists have increased the strain on Ulster's fragile peace, Nicholas Watt reports

Tuesday night. A second man was seriously injured in the shooting, which marked the final demise of the Torney faction, known as the General Headquarters Staff.

Security sources echoed Mr Ervine's fears that the INLA, a small but brutal republican terrorist organisation, would now regroup and attack loyalists. During its 21-year history the INLA has been responsible for blatantly sectarian violence and has often been used by the IRA to carry out murders. There are also fears that militant loyal-

ists, infuriated by the death threat from the Protestant paramilitary leadership against Billy Wright and Alex Kerr, will break the 22-month ceasefire. The home of Mr Kerr's parents was bombed on Sunday night in an attack linked to the paramilitary leadership and there are fears that this could provoke a major feud.

Hundreds of loyalists demonstrated last night in support of Mr Wright in his home town of Portadown, Co Armagh. The rally was held a week after the Com-

bined Loyalist Military Command, the umbrella group for the three main Protestant terrorist organisations, ordered Mr Wright and Mr Kerr to leave Northern Ireland within 72 hours or face "summary justice".

Mr Wright, 36, who is nicknamed "King Rat", has survived a series of IRA attempts on his life and is defying the order from the loyalist command. He said: "The loyalist community is disgusted and bewildered at the direction of certain loyalist elements. The leadership have totally lost touch with the popular mood."

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, will today discuss the recent upsurge in terrorist violence with Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, in Dublin. Their informal meeting,

held before the resumption of the multiparty talks at Stormont at Monday, coincides with calls from mainstream Unionists for the fringe loyalist parties to be expelled from the talks.

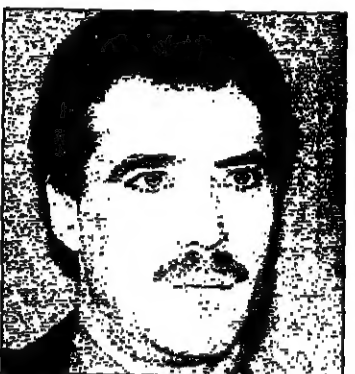
The Democratic Unionists have said that the Progressive Unionist Party, political wing of the Ulster Defence Association, have breached the Mitchell principles of non-violence by refusing to condemn the death threat against Mr Wright. The Northern Ireland Office points out that the loyalist command has not yet broken its ceasefire. Mr Spring is also said to be keen that the loyalists remain at the talks as long as they maintain their ceasefire.

Leading article, page 17



Hugh Torney, disguised in a blond wig, at a republican funeral

Murder of wayward former leader ends bloody internal republican feud



Gallagher: death sparked feud

By NICHOLAS WATT

THE murder of Hugh Torney, one of Northern Ireland's most notorious republican terrorists, ends a bloody feud within the Irish National Liberation Army which has claimed six lives this year.

Torney, 42, nicknamed Cueball for his habit of beating up opponents in prison with a pool ball wrapped inside a sock, was the leader of the General Headquarters faction which has now lost all its key members. It sparked the feud in January when a gunman walked into a social security office

on the Falls Road in west Belfast and shot dead Gino Gallagher, who had ousted Torney as chief of staff of the INLA.

The differences between Torney and Gallagher's faction, known as the Belfast Brigade, dated back to April 1995, when Torney was arrested with three men outside

Dublin with 26 rifles and 2,500 rounds of ammunition. Gallagher was infuriated when Torney tried to win favour with a judge at Dublin's anti-terrorist Special Criminal Court in July 1995 by claiming that the INLA had declared a ceasefire the year before.

The terrorists had been reluctantly observing a ceasefire since the IRA truce of August 1994 after a senior figure in Sinn Féin and the IRA warned the INLA leadership that their graves were awaiting them if they broke ranks.

Within two months of Gallagher's murder his supporters began a ruthless purge of Torney's henchmen. John Fennell, 40, who founded the INLA with Torney in 1975, was beaten to death in a caravan park in Bundoran, Co Donegal, in March. During a bloody interrogation, Fennell "confessed" to delivering money to

the gunman who murdered Gallagher.

Gallagher's supporters demonstrated their ruthless determination to stamp out Torney's faction when they murdered Barbara McAlorum, 9, in north Belfast in March in a mistaken shooting. The Belfast Brigade was said to have been unrepentant after shooting the child as she played in front of her parents in her living room.

The Gallagher faction struck again in May when they gunned down Dessie McCleery, 38, who was Torney's deputy. McCleery

was shot in the crowded bar of a Belfast city centre pizza restaurant. The fifth Torney supporter, Fra Shannon, was murdered in Belfast in June.

Despite the claims of the INLA leadership to be revolutionary republican Marxists, Ulster observers believe that this year's brutal feud demonstrates that the organisation is little more than a collection of thugs, most of whom are IRA rejects. Torney was a typical example. He began his terrorist career in 1970 when he joined the official IRA in Ballymurphy in west Belfast. He

first came to prominence in 1971 when, aged 17, he was shot by a soldier after he was caught with a shotgun. He was jailed for two years.

During the next two decades Torney was both a victim and a killer in a series of INLA feuds. In 1987 he narrowly escaped death when he and his associates were ambushed by a faction headed by Gerard "Dr Death" Steenson. Two men with Torney were killed, but he escaped with a hand injury. Torney ended the feud two months later when he murdered Steenson and another man in west Belfast.

Tourists stayed away as football came home

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

FEWER visitors from mainland Europe travelled to Britain in June than in either of the two previous months, despite the attraction of the Euro 96 football tournament.

Tens of thousands of tourists decided not to cross the Channel because of the influx of football supporters to England, it was claimed yesterday. Richard Tobias, of the British Incoming Tour Operators' Association, said: "Whenever there is a big international sporting event ordinary tourists stay away. During the Barcelona Olympics, for example, there were fewer visitors than normal. You simply get one type of tourist for another."

The British Tourist Authority, however, said June was still 20 per cent up on the same month a year earlier. "As far as we are concerned Euro 96 was a success because it gave England a high profile and cities such as Sheffield, Liverpool and Manchester benefited enormously," a senior official said.

Travel news, pages 20 and 21

Thirty years on, Shelter sad to be in business

By IAN MURRAY

THIRTY years after the television play *Cathy Come Home* stirred the conscience of the nation, the need for housing is as acute as ever, according to a report published today by Shelter.

The charity for the homeless was founded in the same week the play was screened. It marked its anniversary yesterday by issuing figures showing that 200 families a day are losing their homes through repossession; 2,000 people a week are put into hostels; homelessness costs the health service £2 billion a year; and 50,000 children live in temporary accommodation.

"It is sad to be part of something that has had to be around for 30 years fighting for something so basic," Chris Holmes, the charity's director, said. "The need for Shelter is as great as ever."

The report highlights how the law splits homeless families. Last year saw a 50 per cent growth, from 1,331 to 1,954, in the number of households broken up in this way. □ *Divided lives*, Shelter (88 Old Street, London: £8.50)

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Fury as crew leave 70,000 sheep to die in ship blaze

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

ANIMAL welfare campaigners expressed outrage yesterday that nearly 70,000 sheep had been left to die on a blazing Panamanian cargo ship en route from Australia to the Middle East.

The vessel, the 20,884-ton *Uniceb*, which set sail from Fremantle in Western Australia on August 23, bound for Agaba in Jordan, was reported to be adrift in the Indian Ocean 400 miles northeast of the Seychelles after being abandoned by its crew.

Hugh Worth, the Western Australian president of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said the disaster added weight to the organisation's campaign to stop live sheep exports. "It is another classic example of why the trade should be abandoned," he said. "These sheep have been left to a horrific and cruel death."

All but one of the 55 *Uniceb* crew were reported to have been rescued by another cargo vessel, the *Mineral Century*, on Monday after a fire which started in the engine room on Thursday spread to their quarters. Mark Leech, a spokesman for LLP Ltd in Colchester, Essex, which collates shipping accident reports for *Lloyd's List*, said: "We understand that the chief engineer fell overboard during the

evacuation and has been listed as missing. A tug from Djibouti and another livestock transport vessel in the area are heading for the *Uniceb*."

There was no immediate news of the fate of the 67,488 sheep which are said to have been housed on the ship's eight cargo decks. The vessel has been carrying sheep from Australia to the Middle East for the past 14 years.

Martin Potter, head of the farm animal division of the RSPCA in Bristol, said: "This is a disgraceful trade which all reasonable people should oppose. I understand that vets are generally not present on board these ships."

For the past 15 years, Australia has shipped about five million sheep annually to destinations in the Middle East, including Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain, according to the RSPCA.

Last year the South African Government turned down a request by domestic meat traders to be allowed to import Australian sheep because of the high number of animals which die during the three-week voyage to the Middle East. Rudolph Bigalke, a former deputy director-general at the South African Department of Agriculture who led a fact-finding mission to Australia, said: "We found that about

100,000 sheep die every year because they refuse to feed or succumb to bacterial infection under the stress of the journey."

Large numbers of sheep have died in previous accidents on their way from both Australia and New Zealand to the Middle East, according to the RSPCA. In 1980, 12,000 were drowned when the *Star of Shaddia* sank in the Red Sea. In a second accident in the same year, 40,605 sheep died in a fire on board the *Farid Fares*. In 1990, about 10,000 sheep on board the *Corno Express* died from lack of proper ventilation.

Joyce D'Silva, director of Compassion in World Farming, which led last year's protests in Britain against calf exports to Europe, said: "This is another appalling incident in a trade that should have stopped long ago. It shows long-distance transport of livestock cannot be properly policed and is inherently cruel."

The *Uniceb* is owned by a Panamanian company, Mazzini Shipping, and managed by Accord Shipping in Bombay.

Although the sheep could be killed and shipped in carcass form, there is a big demand in the Middle East for live animals which can be slaughtered locally in accordance with Muslim ritual.



Emily Kame Ngwarreye, who gave the large sums of money her paintings earned to her Aboriginal people

Death of artist from outback Utopia

Sydney: Emily Kame Ngwarreye, an Aboriginal artist hailed as one of Australia's foremost painters, has died. Emily, as she was known, lived all her life in her tribal land of Utopia, 180 miles northeast of the outback town of Alice Springs, where she died in hospital on Tuesday. She is believed to have been born about 1910. She had shown little interest in the

large sums of money her work commanded: she slept under the stars and distributed her earnings among her people.

She had only begun to paint on canvas in the late 1980s, but her ability to bridge the gap between Aboriginal and white Australian art quickly brought her international recognition, and prices of some

of her works rocketed to a reported \$200,000 (£100,000).

Emily, who was awarded a fellowship by Paul Keating, then the Prime Minister, was an extremely prolific artist and her works are hung in Australia's major galleries, including the National Gallery in Canberra, and in private collections around the world. (AFP)

WORLD SUMMARY

Rescue for Arctic tourists

Hamburg: A group of 149 tourists stranded on board a German cruise ship that ran aground near King William Island in Canada's Northwest Passage a week ago will be evacuated, the vessel's operator said yesterday.

Hanseatic Tours said that 120 of the mostly American and German passengers on board the ship, the *Hanseatic*, would be transferred to the ice-breaker *Captain Drantzen* and continue their voyage today after attempts to refloat the ship had failed. The 29 others had chosen to return home. (Reuters)

Storm heading for Caribbean

New York: A weary Caribbean is braced for another hurricane in what is fast becoming a vintage season for violent storms (Quentin Letts writes). Hurricane Fran, already whirling at 115mph and classified as a serious category three, was moving towards the American continent. The weather forced NASA technicians in Florida to order "garaging" in its bay of the Atlantis shuttle, delaying its scheduled September 14 blast-off.

Neo-Nazis on race charges

Bonn: Twelve neo-Nazis, aged 16 to 23, have been arrested and charged with attacks last month on a new hostel for foreigners seeking asylum in Germany, police in the eastern state of Saxony said. The dozen were arrested by a special police unit set up to combat violence by the extreme right. They were released on bail on charges of racial incitement. (AFP)

Colombia rebels hold 60 troops

Rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia yesterday told the International Committee of the Red Cross in Bogotá that, after a week of clashes with security forces, they had captured 60 soldiers (Gabriella Gammeli writes). The guerrillas said they would hold them hostage until the Government agreed to talks.

Coils burn out

Iligan, Philippines: A snake that slithered into a national power installation was electrocuted by a high-tension wire, triggered an explosion and caused a two-hour power cut in this southern city. (Reuters)

Tanzania forces US plane to detour

FROM REUTERS IN BUJUMBURA

A US Air Force C-141 Starlifter transport aircraft flew out of Burundi yesterday after a seven-hour delay caused by Tanzania's refusal to allow it to overfly its territory, airport officials said.

The aircraft left as renewed fighting between government troops and Hutu rebels flared to the east of Bujumbura. The army was using two helicopter gunships and mortars to repel the rebels in some of the fiercest fighting since the coup on July 25.

Officials said that the aircraft headed for Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, with 31 passengers, mainly diplomats and aid workers, after Rwanda and Uganda granted it permission to overfly.

Tanzania had refused to let the aircraft into its airspace, saying that the flight was affected by regional sanctions against Burundi. African states have banned all air links with Burundi as part of

sanctions imposed after the military coup.

The fighting to the east of Bujumbura was described as fairly intense by Lieutenant-Colonel Isaac Nibizi, an army spokesman, and was continuing. The colonel said yesterday's fighting, which came after sharp clashes between the army and rebels the day before, started after the rebels attacked targets on the eastern outskirts of Bujumbura city and the Tutsi-dominated army sent reinforcements to tackle them.

Residents said they saw helicopters take off to attack rebel positions and heard mortars in the latest battle around Tshiangano, only a few miles from the city. On Tuesday night Hutu rebels had launched a fierce attack, but the army said yesterday they had been repelled.

'Extinct' pheasants discovered

Hanoi: A species of pheasant long thought to have become extinct has been rediscovered in central Vietnam.

David Hulsey, a representative for the World Wide Fund for Nature, said villagers had caught a mating pair of Edwards's pheasant in the Bach Ma National Park last week.

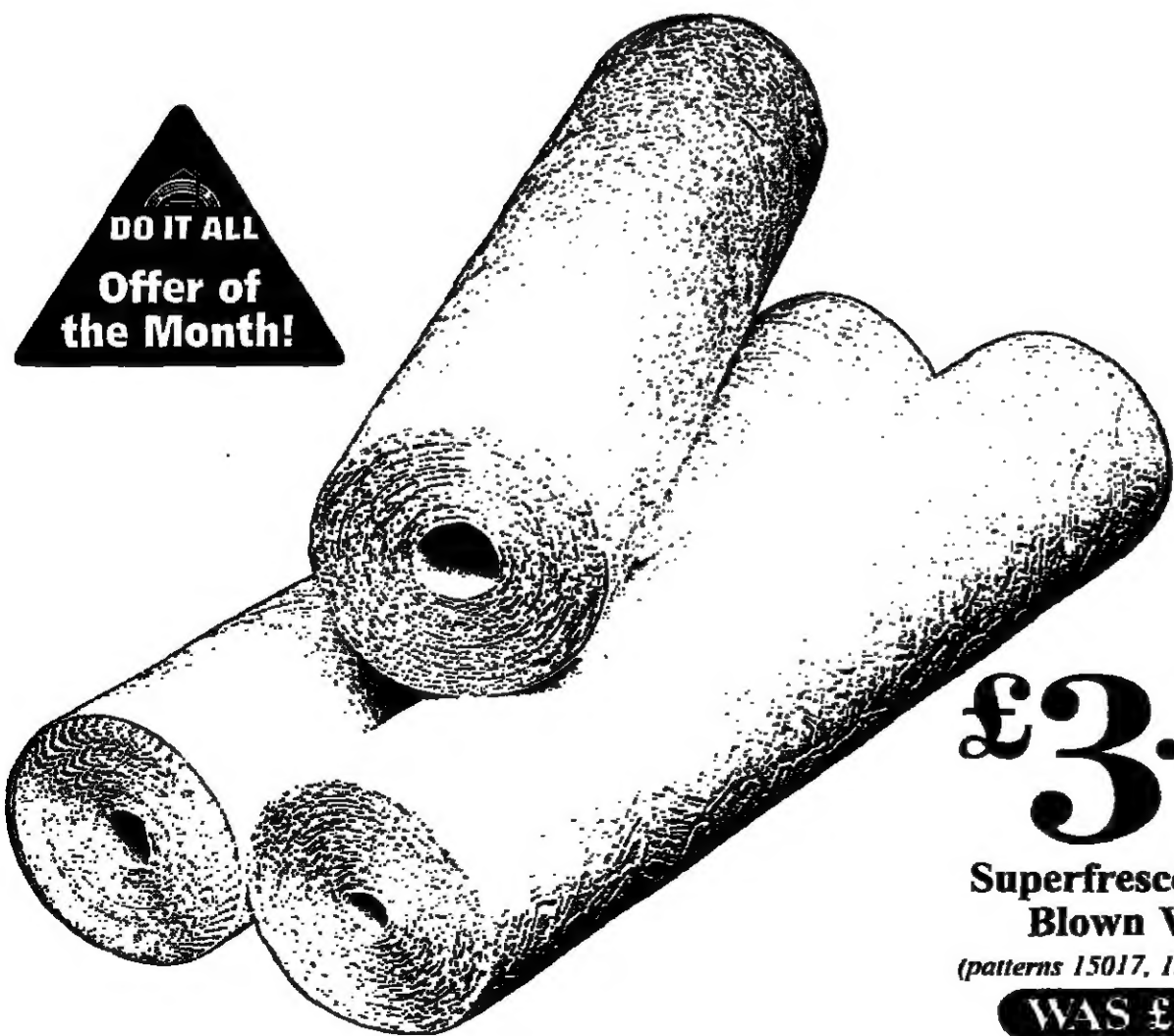
The last known capture of the species was in 1928, but the Edwards's pheasant had already been considered rare five years earlier when Jean Delacour, a French ornithologist, took 15 of the birds back to Paris. Three expeditions conducted between 1988 and 1994 failed to sight one.

Mr Hulsey said the female pheasant had since died of injuries sustained while being captured and the male had a broken leg. However, he said, their discovery indicated that the existence of a wild population was highly probable.

Dawood Ghomazi, a programme director for the fund, said: "Rediscovering this pheasant after 70 years means mankind has a second chance to save this exquisite bird and its habitat." The Edwards's pheasant, only found in Vietnam, has dark blue-black plumage. (Reuters)

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King vows to make sure Belgian sex network is broken

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

KING ALBERT II of the Belgians yesterday promised the parents of four murdered girls he would ensure that nothing would stop investigators uncovering the paedophile network around Marc Dutroux, whose actions have sparked a national crisis.

The King and Queen Paola met the parents of An Marchal, Eefje Lambrecks, Melissa Russo and Julie Lejeune a day after the bodies of the first two were found buried under a shed owned by Dutroux near Charleroi. Dutroux told the police after his arrest last month that he had kidnapped An, 17, and Eefje, 19, as they waited for a train in Ostend a year ago. The bodies of Melissa and Julie, both eight, were found in an earlier police search of Dutroux's premises last month.

The King's gesture was his first after criticism from the victims' parents last month about his failure to respond to

their appeals for help in the year after their disappearance. Meeting the parents at the royal palace yesterday, King Albert voiced his horror over the crimes and his determination to ensure that "no trail is ignored" in the hunt for those involved. He would keep a close watch on the case so that "total clarity prevails in this drama and that no ambiguity can endure".

The remark was a response to the outrage in Belgium after evidence emerged that no action was taken against Dutroux, a convicted child rapist, despite police reports casting suspicion on him.

Echoing widespread public feeling, the media have claimed that Dutroux and his ring enjoyed protection from influential figures in the establishment. Nine people, including Dutroux's wife, Michèle, have been arrested.

The failure of Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Prime Minister,

to take a prominent role in the affair last month sharpened the public sense of official indifference. Over the past week, he has been seeking to repair the damage. He sent his condolences to the Marchal and Lambrecks parents. "This is truly monstrous. We must do everything we can to make sure this does not happen ever again," he said.

While digging continued at four other premises owned by Dutroux yesterday, Michel Bourlet, the chief prosecutor, denied media reports that the police were on the verge of charging other police officers and judicial officials.

Three shot Belgians were shocked by more killings yesterday when the bodies of a couple and their grandson, seven, were found in eastern Belgium, all apparently shot. The police said that the shootings in Comblain-au-Pont were not linked to the Dutroux case. (AP)

Setback to Paris hope on single currency

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French economy shrank by 0.4 per cent in the second quarter of this year, according to figures released yesterday, raising fresh doubts that the Government will cut its budget deficit in time for economic and monetary union.

The disappointing result partly reflected a sharp drop in consumer spending, hit by high unemployment and fears of a repeat of last year's strikes. The first-quarter growth was revised down from 1.2 to 1.1 per cent.

The Government has predicted full-year growth of 1.3 per cent and Alain Lamassoure, the budget minister, insisted yesterday that it was "still not impossible". He said the lower figures were partly due to the smaller number of working days in the period covered.

Some recovery is expected in the third quarter, but many economists doubt France can meet growth predictions.

Economic view, page 27



A man in Grozny prepares to be beaten by one of the Chechen rebels who are rigorously applying Islamic law. Each of the five offenders received 40 lashes

Chechen drunks flogged in public

Grozny: Chechen separatist rebels, applying strict Islamic law, carried out judicial beatings yesterday as they tightened their grip on the regional capital. Some of those punished were found drunk in public and at least one was beaten for selling alcohol.

After a brief recitation of the crime and sentence, a sweating, bearded fighter, draped in ammunition belts and wearing a headband bearing a quotation from the Koran, beat the backs and legs of the five offenders. Such beatings have become common practice in Grozny, the Chechen capital, as the Muslim separatists have stamped their mark on the city they seized from the Russian Army in fierce fighting last month.

Each of the offenders received 40 blows. Most squirmed and squealed, but clung to the bench as the blows fell. For the last man, however, it was too much; he screamed and wriggled off the bench. His jailers said his punishment was stopped so that he would not be humiliated before the crowd. (Reuters)

Last stand for place names of Wild West

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

RESIDENTS of Minnesota are refusing to comply with a new law which demands that place names incorporating the word "squaw" be changed.

Critics of the rule, introduced last month, say it is political correctness gone mad and will dilute the pioneer heritage of the old Wild West. Supporters of the measure argue that "squaw", the term used by white settlers to describe Indian women, has a vulgar etymology and is offensive to native Americans.

The law was passed after pressure from Indian pressure groups whose linguists investigated the derivation of "squaw" and claimed that it was a French corruption of an Algonquin slang term for the female reproductive organ.

So it is that a quiet spot such as Squaw Pond in Minnesota's Cass County has been officially renamed Scout Camp Pond. Nearby Squaw Lake has become Nature's Lake and people looking for a Squaw Creek will have to get used to Fond du Lac Creek.

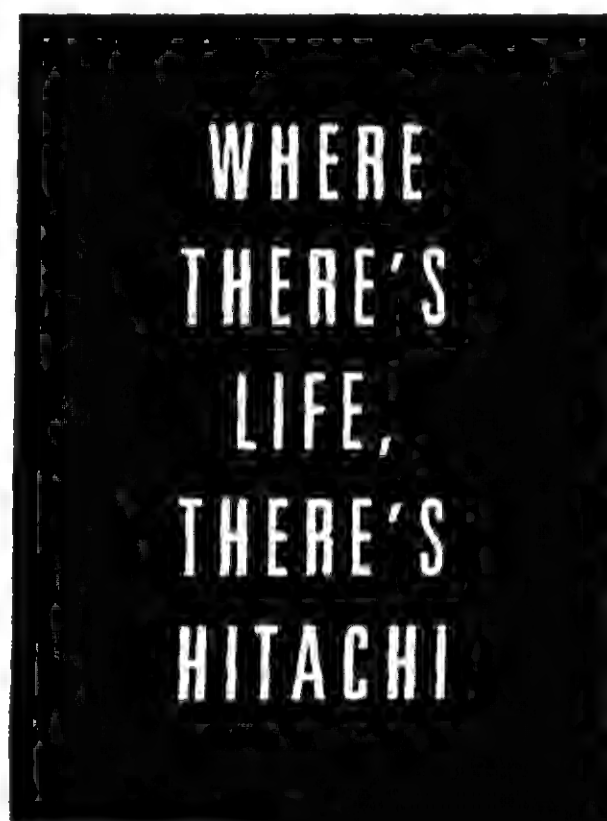
In far-flung Lake County, however, residents have described the law as an absurdity and their steadfast refusal to change the name of Squaw Bay could lead to court action. Local officials offered to change the name to Politically Correct Bay, but this was turned down by state officials

who considered it impertinent. Other communities have tried to emulate their dissent. The people of Squaw Lake township offered to rename it No Name Lake or Changing Name Lake, but were not allowed to do so. They have had Pretty Water Lake forced on them even though, as one local woman pointed out, "it's actually muddy water".

The controversial law, which has affected about 20 place names in the state, was announced last year by Minnesota's Commissioner of Natural Resources. It followed a 1967 ruling by the US Geological Survey's Board on Geographic Names which forced places with "rigger" in their names to be changed to "negro". Chinamen's Spring in Yellowstone National Park was altered to Chinese Spring.

The refusal of some places to accept the latest ruling has prompted Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources to take advice from the state attorney-general. "We fully intend to accomplish this," an official said.

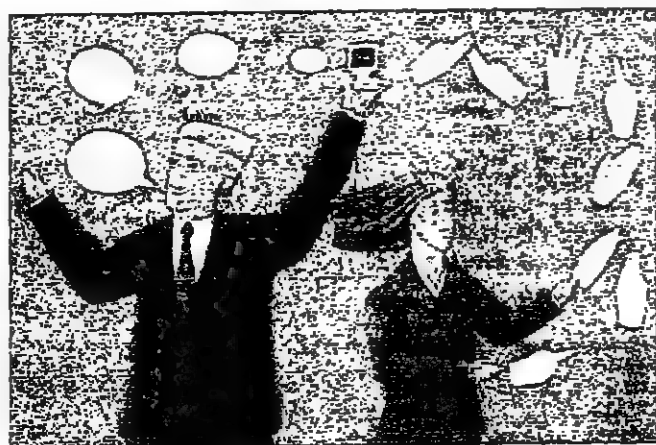
People have also wondered what the future holds for the likes of Breast Island, Bastard Butte, Bitch Mountain and for Sex Peak Lookout in Montana. There are also 67 Cripple Creeks around the United States, but perhaps not for long.



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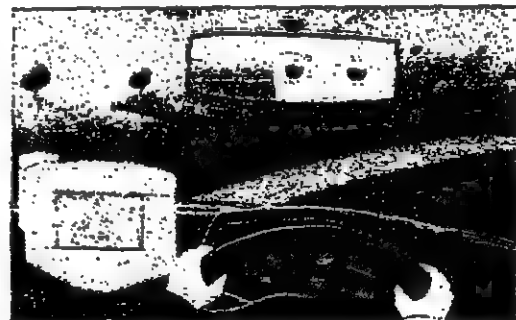
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How Saddam's desert marauders ambushed Clinton campaign caravan

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

LAST Saturday President Clinton stopped his campaign bus on a quiet road in rural Tennessee and Vice-President Al Gore, who had been following in another vehicle, hopped on board.

By the time the motorcade reached the town of Covington for the President's next rally, the two men had endorsed the recommendations of a memorandum from Tony Lake, his National Security Adviser. They agreed that the US should launch missile attacks against targets in the south of Iraq

AMERICA

in response to the country's attack on the Kurdish city of Arbil. That decision was the culmination of a two-week process that began when the CIA spotted Iraqi troop movements on August 18 — the night of Mr Clinton's 50th birthday party in New York.

At first the CIA suspected the Iraqi movements were training exercises. Within a week it was expressing "reasonable confidence" that President Saddam Hussein was preparing an offensive. Mr Clinton had already

begun a four-day train journey to the Democratic convention in Chicago, and the White House formed an inter-agency working group, including representatives from the Pentagon, State Department, CIA and the National Security Council, to develop possible US responses.

Eight days ago the CIA declared an Iraqi offensive almost certain. As Mr Clinton travelled through Ohio, he approved a strong diplomatic warning to Saddam. The next day — Thursday — the President began considering military options as he prepared for his crucial convention speech and grappled with the resignation of

his top political adviser, Dick Morris, because of a sex scandal. Having delivered his speech, Mr Clinton embarked early last Friday on a two-day campaign bus tour through the heartlands, receiving constant briefings while on the road. Mike McCurry, his Press Secretary, publicly warned Baghdad. Mr Clinton sent a second private warning to Iraq's United Nations mission. When the mission refused to accept it, US officials faced it instead.

The Iraqis attacked on Saturday. Mr Clinton approved Mr Lake's memorandum, which was based on the working group's recom-

mendations and honed by William Perry, the Defence Secretary, Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, and others. He then began seeking allied support. He dispatched emissaries to the Middle East and made calls on Sunday to John Major, Egypt's President Mubarak, and King Fahd and Hussein of Saudi Arabia and Jordan. On Monday, he telephoned President Chirac of France from a rally in Wisconsin. Mr Chirac objected, but American BS2s had already left Guam.

Mr Clinton can expect an immediate electoral boost from the strikes. Americans traditionally rally behind their Presidents when they order US forces into action. But the operation is also inherently risky.

One of Mr Clinton's two top strategic concerns is to hold together the fragile international coalition against Iraq. White House officials insist the allies are privately far more supportive of the strikes than they have been publicly, but US congressmen and newspapers expressed grave dis-

appointment yesterday at the failure of key allies to back the operation. John McCain, a Republican senator and Bob Dole adviser, presaged what could become a

potent line of attack during the rest of the campaign when he lamented that Mr Clinton "didn't take the time or effort to get the coalition together again". The Wall Street Journal argued that the allies' reluctance reflected "slipping worldwide confidence in US international leadership".

The other worst-case scenario for Mr Clinton is that Saddam refuses to withdraw his forces or attacks other Kurdish cities. "I hope that the Administration has a plan B, because it's not clear to me that 27 and 17 cruise missiles... is going to be sufficient to deter Saddam," said Mr McCain.

Baghdad 'will be destroyed' if Scuds are fired

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

DAVID LEVY, the Israeli Foreign Minister, delivered a blunt warning yesterday of a harsh and immediate response if Iraq Scud missiles are fired at the Jewish state in revenge for the American missile attacks. Some Israeli experts have predicted that, if chemical weapons were used, the result would be "the destruction of Baghdad".

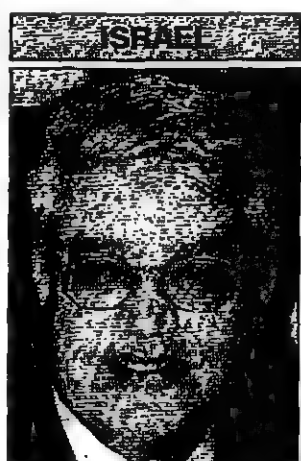
In an interview with *The Times*, his first with a foreign journalist since the election in May, Mr Levy, 59, said that Israel still regarded President Saddam Hussein as a threat and he confirmed indirectly that warnings had been given to the Iraqi dictator via diplomatic channels about the ferocity with which Israel would react to any attack with non-conventional weapons.

Mr Levy, who was also Foreign Minister during the 1991 Gulf War, hinted strongly that Israel would not act with the same restraint this time if hit by any Scud missiles. In the last conflict, under heavy American pressure, it withheld 39 missile attacks without response in an attempt to keep the Arab world in the international coalition against Saddam.

Asked if Israel now felt free to react to any provocation, Mr Levy, speaking as thousands of anxious Israelis queued for gas masks and spoke to phone-in programmes about their anxieties, said: "Every situation demands its own response. Our thinking at the time was to enable the international coalition to accomplish its goals. Unfortunately, the threat and the danger of Saddam Hussein remained intact."

"Saddam is unpredictable. His way of thinking is not always rational, and you cannot predict how he will act. One thing is clear: he was a threat and he remains a threat. Obviously, because of experience, we consider ourselves to be under threat," Mr Levy said on the eve of a crucial five-nation European tour that will include meetings in London, Paris, Bonn, Rome and Dublin. He will also hold talks on the Iraqi crisis in London on Sunday with Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State.

Mr Levy, a Moroccan-born former building worker widely regarded as a moderate in the right-wing Cabinet of Benjamin Netanyahu, spoke in Hebrew through an interpreter. He said: "If, on top of current events, a direct threat



Levy: Israel "will do what it has to do"

to Israel from Iraq will be added, it is clear that Israel will do what it has to do out of a sense of responsibility for the security of its citizens. And it has the capability for it."

Some senior diplomats have speculated that Israel might resort to its nuclear capability in the event of a chemical or biological weapons attack so often threatened by Saddam during the 1991 Gulf War. Asked if Israel had been warned during that conflict or during the latest flare-up, or whether any warning had been passed to Baghdad through a third party, Mr Levy said: "Those who are close to us know exactly what our response might be if this might happen."

In a separate interview yesterday with the Tel Aviv newspaper *Yediot Aharanot*, Professor Amotz Baran, of Haifa University, Israel's

leading expert on Iraq, was asked if Saddam was "crazy enough" to launch chemical or biological missiles. "The Iraqis understand — and there is proof of this in their print media — that the price of an attack on Israel with non-conventional weapons would be the destruction of Baghdad," he replied.

The seriousness with which a potential Iraqi revenge attack is being regarded by many Israelis was underlined in the Hebrew newspaper *Haaretz*, which led with the deliberately vaguely worded headline: "Israel takes unspecified 'technical steps' to prevent element of surprise if Iraq launches Scud missiles at Israel". Israeli intelligence sources were quoted as assessing that Saddam has "at least ten Scud launchers and dozens of missiles".

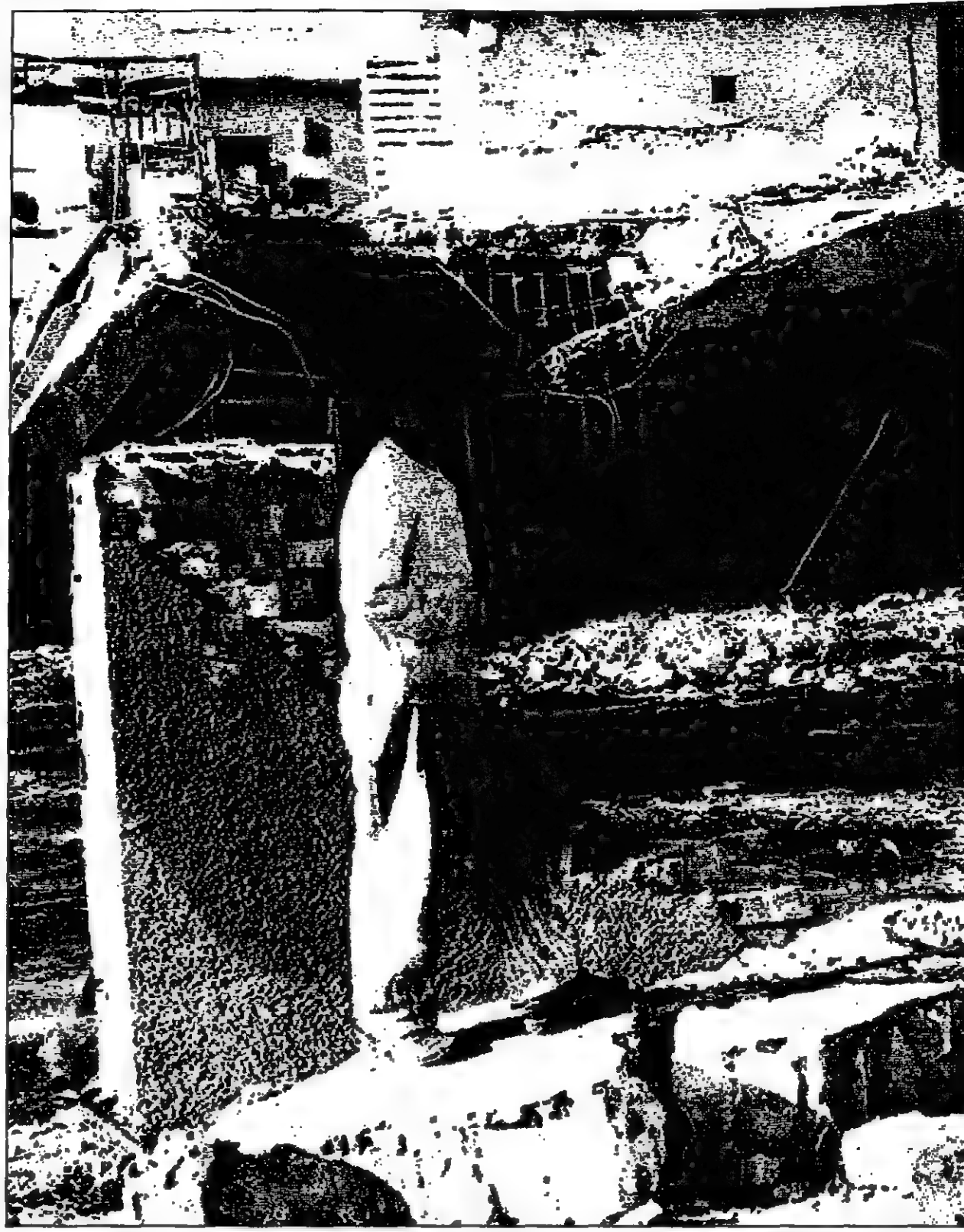
Questioned about the near-paralytic response of many Israelis to the fear of renewed missile attacks, Mr Levy said: "We are normal people. We know from our experience, because of what we have lived through, that we are dealing with someone who does not have any boundaries."

"It is natural that people here are worried and it is also normal that a government will follow the situation with a cold eye. We do not panic, but we are not idle."

In diplomatic circles, the Foreign Minister's tough public warning to Iraq was seen as the more significant because of his reputation as a relative moderate in a Cabinet of hawks. That reputation was founded when an Israeli inquiry showed that he was the only Cabinet member who questioned the wisdom of allowing Christian militiamen into Beirut refugee camps surrounded by the Israeli army in 1982. They massacred hundreds of Palestinians.

Mr Levy, a father of 12 who lives in the provincial town of Bet Shean, showed his mettle during the difficult early days of the formation of the new Likud-led coalition. He refused to take up his post as Foreign Minister until Ariel Sharon, a hardliner, was found a suitable Cabinet post.

Yesterday, seated in his modestly furnished office, Mr Levy made clear that Arab nations as well as Israel were under threat from Baghdad. "The issue of the Iraqi threat concerns the entire region. Even those [in the Arab world] who do not express public support for the US, bear in their hearts deep fears of the situation."



An Iraqi boy stands in the ruins of a house which, it is claimed, was destroyed by an American missile on Monday

Kurd dilemma confronts West

BY MARC WELLES

LED by America, the Western coalition powers have undertaken a difficult task in trying to extend a protective umbrella over the Kurds.

Not only have the Kurds failed to present a united front, but their very existence poses a dilemma. Their aim, a Kurdish state, is as abhorrent to their enemies as it is unacceptable to their protectors.

The international community has therefore tolerated their presence in a state of limbo. When Iraq's war machine turned on the Kurds at the end of the Gulf War, the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution condemning their repression

COMMENT

by Iraq and demanding humanitarian access to refugees struggling to reach Turkey.

The Council did not authorise military enforcement of these demands, but the coalition powers acted on their own, briefly deploying ground troops to protect and repatriate the displaced in April 1991.

Iraq agreed to the establishment of a UN humanitarian presence throughout its territory, including the north. In accordance with a memorandum of understanding, a 500-strong unit of lightly armed UN "guards" was deployed in the region. The memorandum

was to apply only for a limited period and proved difficult to renew. It did not suggest, however, that northern Iraq would be turned into a "no-go" area for Baghdad.

Potential military advances by Baghdad's forces on the ground were deterred through the no-fly zone north of the 36th parallel. But the allies often affirmed their commitment to Iraq's territorial unity.

In August 1992 the coalition also established a no-fly zone in southern Iraq. The aim was to be able to monitor the situation of the so-called Marsh Arabs. In January 1993, some 114 US, French and British aircraft attacked air defence installations and other military targets in southern

Iraq to enforce the no-fly zone. These acts were justified as acts of self-defence.

Iraq's own military operations now raise difficult legal issues, which go beyond the slight straining of the law necessary to justify the continued existence of the no-fly zones. Although it is argued that Iraq is bound to accept autonomous government for its northern provinces, there seems little to prevent it from intervening in a bloody struggle between two rival Kurdish factions on its own territory.

The author is an assistant director at the Centre for International Studies of the University of Cambridge.

Lawrence Freedman, page 16

Chirac supports French business at expense of US onslaught

BY BEN MACINTYRE
AND RICHARD BEESTON

REACTION

FRANCE's refusal to support the American missile strikes in Iraq reflects President Chirac's independent approach to Middle East policy, but also a determination to ensure that French businesses, which have been cultivating Iraqi links for the past three years, are well placed to secure lucrative contracts when United Nations sanctions are eased.

Before the Gulf War, France was one of Iraq's main trading partners and the largest Western supplier of

arms to the Iraqi Government. In recent months French businessmen have been assiduously rebuilding economic ties in anticipation of a lifting of the embargo.

France has been at the forefront of efforts to end the UN sanctions against the Baghdad regime and French petrol companies, including Total and Elf-Aquitaine, have sent several delegations to Iraq during the past year to discuss the development of the country's oilfields if the

embargo is lifted. In June, Amer Rashid, the Iraqi Oil Minister, predicted that the embargo would be lifted by the end of the year and noted that oil contracts with French companies worth \$4 billion (£2.56 billion) had reached a "very advanced stage". When Mr Rashid visited Paris last June, no fewer than 70 French company heads turned out in order to meet him.

The French Government yesterday called for fresh talks to push through a UN resolution permitting Iraq to use the proceeds from limited oil sales to buy food and medical

supplies. The plan, due to be implemented later this month, was postponed on Sunday by Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General.

Russia intensified its condemnation of America's attacks on Iraq yesterday, accusing Washington of acting illegally and threatening to plunge the world into anarchy. In some of the toughest language used by Russia against the United States since the collapse of the Soviet Union five years ago, the Kremlin accused Washington of trying to replace the role of the UN.

The harshest criticism came from Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, who took time during a tour of Central Europe to criticise the Americans for the second consecutive day.

"We view the renewed attacks in Iraq very negatively. Such a system could lead to catastrophic consequences. I am speaking not only about regional affairs, but about the world order," he said. "No single country can take action that could disrupt the world order. There is the UN Security Council, and only this can decide the use of force."

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Liechtenstein will hand over report on murder of tsar

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AMID the fairy tale splendour of an Alpine castle, Prince Hans-Adam II von und zu Liechtenstein, the ruler of one of the world's smallest countries, yesterday handed over to Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, ownership of the first official report on the murder of Tsar Nicholas II and his family in 1918.

In return, Mr Primakov promised to send to Vaduz the royal archives of Liechtenstein, seized from Berlin by Soviet army officers at the end of the Second World War and buried in the Kremlin archives for the past 50 years.

The extraordinary exchange of historic documents brought Mr Primakov to the tiny Alpine principality on the first visit by a senior Russian — indeed, one of the few political events ever to disturb the tranquillity of a minuscule country famed for its classic ski slopes and the plethora of brass-plate company head-



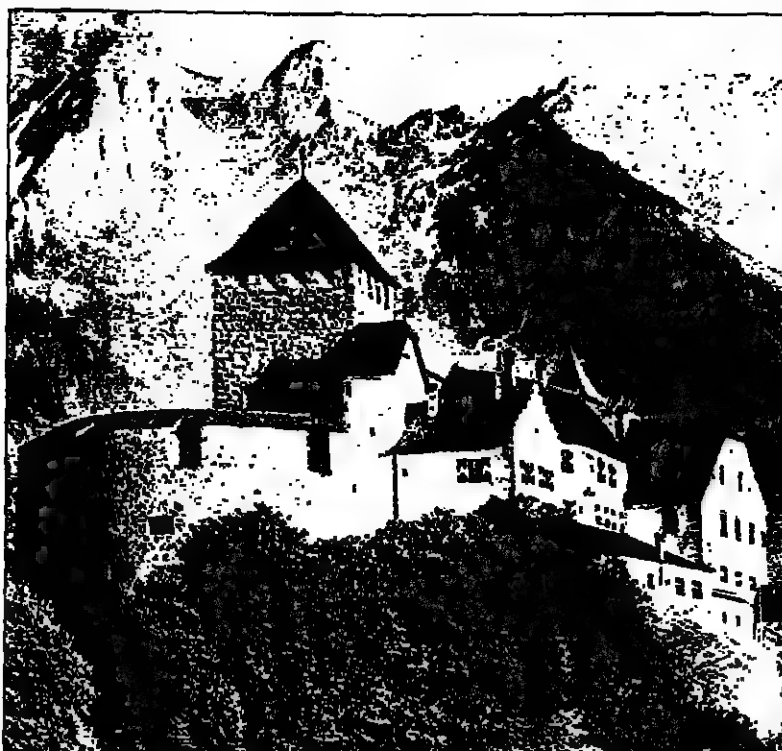
Prince Hans-Adam II: tireless campaign

quarters. The visit follows a decision by the Russian parliament in June to break with the Soviet Union's refusal to turn war booty, and opens the way for a cathartic rehabilitation of the murdered tsar before the proposed reburial of his bones in St Petersburg.

The exchange is the culmination of a tireless campaign

by the Liechtenstein Prince, a forceful ruler who has on several occasions clashed with unruly subjects demanding more democracy. His father, the former ruler of Europe's last remaining princely state, was a vocal critic of Hitler's annexation of neighbouring Austria, and in revenge the Führer confiscated the two Liechtenstein castles outside Vienna, taking the family archives to Berlin. In 1945 they were moved to Moscow, along with Nazi records, and there they remained, despite royal entreaties.

Advised by historians and keeping his ear to the ground, the Prince waited for his chance to sway the Kremlin. In 1990, as word was getting out that the bones of the murdered imperial family had been found in a shallow grave in Sverdlovsk — formerly and once again Yekaterinburg — the Sokolov Archive came up for auction at Sotheby's. This White Army report on the



Castle Vaduz in Liechtenstein, where the exchange of documents was agreed yesterday, and Tsar Nicholas II with his wife and children



murders had been in a Paris bank vault for almost 70 years. When the document failed to reach its reserve price, Liechtenstein paid £500,000 and proposed a swap.

Nikolai Sokolov was a

wheels, fires and hooves. His men collected dozens of objects from the area: charred jewellery and corset-bones, belt buckles, glasses, false teeth and the decomposed corpse of a spaniel. Although the mineshifts were pumped out, there were no bodies. Sokolov concluded that they had been burnt.

He had already found a

copy of the coded, incriminating telegram, sent by the head of the local soviet to the Bolshevik head of the secret police in Moscow. It said, chillingly: "Tell Sverdlov that the entire family suffered the same fate as its head. Officially the family will perish in evacuation." He also found the bill from a chemist for 358lb of sulphuric acid to destroy the bodies. His report — which the Communists tried for 70 years to discredit — was smuggled to Paris, with maps, photo-

graphs and a scrap of wallpaper from the cellar with a scribbled German verse by one of the princesses in which she prophesied her death. In 1920 it was given to the family of Prince Orlov, a member of the Russian nobility, and then disappeared.

Sokolov's failure to find the

remains in 1979. The executioners, panicking at the approach of the White Army, had returned to the mineshaft the following day, pulled out the bodies, attempted to burn them and covered them in a shallow grave. They were not officially exhumed until 1991 as communism collapsed, when the great taboo on the tsar's murder was finally broken.

Leading article, page 17

Handclasp puts peace talks back on track

By ROSS DUNN

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, the right-wing Israeli Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestinian Authority, last night restored confidence in the Middle East peace process with a firm public handshake and commitment to negotiations.

When the historic moment came the handshake between the two men was so brief that photographers asked them to repeat it.

However, Mr Netanyahu



Binyamin Netanyahu greets Yasser Arafat at the beginning of the Erez meeting

a terrorist. Both men then faced the cameras and nodded for a moment before sliding down to their long-awaited negotiations, which have been stalled since Mr Netanyahu's election in May.

At a conference after the

agreements signed [with the previous] Government. Mr Netanyahu was cautious, however, about whether he was bound by the undertakings of the previous Government. "We want to advance on the issues of cooperation to us all agree ways to do so in such a way as to facilitate negotiations on a final status," he said.

Such talks, which are designed to draw up a lasting peace settlement between the

two sides, are meant to be completed by 1999. Mr Netanyahu emphasised he was concerned about easing the poverty of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. After the summit at the Erez checkpoint on the edge of the Gaza Strip, both men were evasive over the question of a redeployment of Israeli troops in Hebron, the last major Palestinian city on the West Bank still under Israeli military control.

Israel poured £40m into secret personal account for Arafat

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

IN THE past two years Israel has transferred about £40 million to a secret bank account in Tel Aviv for the use at the discretion of Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority's President.

The *Jerusalem Post*, which first reported the story yesterday, said it had not been suggested Mr Arafat had been pocketing the money from the secret account. But, it added, there had been speculation he might have used it to buy off political opponents, including Islamic militants.

The newspaper's disclosures could prove embarrassing for Mr Arafat on the eve of today's Washington conference of international donors to the Palestinian Authority. The conference will discuss the authority's estimated deficit of

\$90 million (£54 million), which Palestinians blame on Israel's closure of the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

About 24 countries provide funds to the Palestinians and some of them are believed to have written to Mr Arafat a year ago to ask him to "consolidate" the account with others held by the authority. The American Government also asked for the account to be consolidated, but did not make a public issue of it.

While it was still not clear yesterday if the issue would be raised at the Washington conference, the existence of the account is said to be known to a US congressman, Ben Gilman, head of the House international affairs committee. Mr Gilman is believed to want to know how the money

will be spent before he releases \$10 million in American aid that has been delayed.

The funds in the secret account were apparently derived from petrol taxes, which Israel collected on behalf of the Palestinian Authority. Under a 1994 agreement reached in Paris, Israel agreed to rebate the Palestinian Authority for taxes collected from Palestinians. That included revenues raised from petrol, customs, health fees and income and sales taxes. According to *The Jerusalem Post*, the signature on the account is that of official in the office of financial adviser, who also goes by the name of Muhammad Rashid. The name of another Palestinian signatory to the account is not known.

An Israeli government official told the newspaper: "It is known what amounts go into the Tel Aviv ... account, but we just do not know what amounts go out and for what purpose ... Some of the money is supposed to, and perhaps does, make its way to the Palestinian Authority budget. The fund is for Arafat's use and there is no question that the account operates out of the framework of the Palestinian Authority."

There was no comment from the Palestinian Authority and the official response from Israel has been cautious. An official in the office of Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, said: "This matter is being examined by the Government and it will take appropriate action once all the details are uncovered."

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Pigs could save your bacon



Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the perfect organ donors: exploding the blood pressure myth; cutting out fat and a new flu strain

If Lord Blandings was still at Blandings Castle he would feel that his opinion of pigs was vindicated. Old-fashioned pigs — the large whites so revered by Lord Blandings but so despised by modern butchers — are the breed chosen by research scientists in Cambridge for transplant experiments.

Although the human breakfast eater may reject the fat-laden bacon rashers from a large white, doctors have found that these pigs' kidneys and hearts, when suitably modified by genetic engineering, may be acceptable to our immune system.

Research carried out at the Mivran Laboratories of Cambridge University was presented at the recent meeting of the 16th International Congress of the Transplantation Society, held in Barcelona. The Cambridge research workers have successfully transplanted the genetically modified swine's kidneys into primates, and have shown that the monkeys did not develop a resultant hyperacute rejection reaction, the usual response from a host when a graft from an alien species has been transplanted into it.

Last year, the same team transplanted genetically modified pigs' hearts into the abdomens of monkeys, and these hearts were still beating 60 days after surgery. The monkeys who received pigs' kidneys survived for only a matter of days or weeks, but at the time of death the kidneys, which had been supporting the life of the monkey, showed no signs of hyperacute rejection.

The longest-living monkeys all developed anaemia. The genetically engineered swine may look like animals we could have loved in our nursery days, but they will lead an unromantic life far removed

from any rural idyll. Nine-teenth-century pictures of old-fashioned swine, examples of which will be shown at the O'Shea Gallery in Mount Street, Mayfair, London, next week, were, when portrayed by Victorian painters such as Vine, Whitford and Weaver, nearly always shown in sties ankle deep in mud. Inevitably, the mud will have been well laced with pathogenic bacteria and equally dangerous viruses. In contrast, the pigs used for human transplantation will live in near-sterile surroundings.

The greatest scientific, rather than moral, objection to transgenic transplantation will be the fear of transmission of pathogenic organisms. The *BMJ* reported recently that there are now six biotechnology firms in the United States which are breeding swine for transplant experiments in colonies free of dangerous organisms.

Before pigs' organs can be used for transplantation to primates, other types of rejection as well as hyperacute rejection will have to be overcome.

The anaemia which the longest-living monkeys developed was attributed to the inability of the pigs' kidney, once transplanted, to produce an erythropoietin, which would stimulate essential red blood cell production in the primates' bone marrow. This problem, like rejection and possible infection, will also have to be solved before the 150,000 people worldwide, who are now dying for want of an available human organ, can be offered genetically modified swine's kidneys. Transplants from well-matched human donors are likely to remain a surgeon's first choice of organ for many



Pigs' kidneys and hearts, when suitably modified by genetic engineering, may be acceptable to our immune system

years to come. Whatever the source of the graft, advances in immuno-suppression are of supreme importance to the patient.

At the same conference in Barcelona, the results of a comparison between the new immuno-suppressant drug, Prograf tacrolimus, and the older preparation, cyclosporin, in patients who had had kidney transplants were announced. Patients treated

with Prograf tacrolimus had significantly fewer episodes of life-threatening acute or steroid-resistant rejection. The incidence of other side-effects varied from drug to drug, but one fact which might be of importance in patients who discontinue treatment because of concern about their appearance was that tacrolimus was less likely to cause acne, swollen gums or abnormal hairiness.

THE British Heart Foundation's sponsored health research group, headed by Dr Michael Rayner at Oxford University, has been reviewing the national diet. The cardiologists' standards are very high when it comes to choosing food and some might think their choice is rather dismal: they want to increase the amount of bread, potatoes and fruit by 50 per

cent and cut the intake of fatty foods by nearly 40 per cent.

These recommendations, which would certainly be good for the heart even if not always palatable, can be achieved because 17 per cent of men and 11 per cent of women have already done so and are now reaching some of

New treatment for hypertension

Ways to ease the pressure

Many people still equate high blood pressure with the image of an angry retired colonel shouting at a parking meter attendant. Although blood pressure is raised when someone is angry, hypertension occurs equally frequently in modest, kindly patients who have never lost their temper with anybody.

Raised blood pressure is a cardiovascular disease and not the description of a particular temperament. Although most older people have high blood pressure, doctors have until recently been uncertain what to do about it. Even ten years ago, many otherwise excellent British doctors recommended that those between the ages of 65 and 74 should have treatment only if the blood pressure exceeded 200/100. For those over 75, drugs were normally prescribed only if the lower level for diastolic blood pressure, that is to say the pressure exerted when the heart is in its relaxed phase, reached 120.

Many doctors rejected this extreme conservatism and research has since shown that it must have been responsible for many unnecessary and relatively premature deaths.

Ten years ago, analysis of trials all over the world showed that appropriate treatment of blood pressure in older age groups reduced the number of strokes by 35 per cent and coronaries by 20 per cent. The overall death rate was cut by 15 per cent.

After the publication of these results, it was suggested that the over-65s should be given anti-hypertensive drugs if the blood pressure rose above 160/90. If the blood pressure is persistently raised in middle age, or in younger people — and has failed to respond to change in lifestyle,

weight reduction, regular steady exercise, salt restriction and not more than three drinks a day — hypotensive agents, usually beta blockers, are recommended.

Professor Joel Simon of the University of California has recently reviewed in the *BMJ* the evidence which has determined the present advice given on the care of patients with high blood pressure. It is, however, still uncertain how much the blood pressure in the over-75s should be reduced.



Hot under the collar

There is increasing evidence that bringing the blood pressure down in the elderly, to a diastolic level of under 85, increases the chance of suffering a coronary thrombosis.

The most recent report in the *BMJ* on research in Sweden showed that if the blood pressure in the very old was lowered to below 90, there was a fourfold increase in the heart attack rate.

The general view now seems that it is a good idea to accept that when a patient is entitled to a bus pass, the diastolic blood pressure should not be any lower than 80 to 90.

Cardiologists call for less fat

cent and cut the intake of fatty foods by nearly 40 per cent.

These recommendations, which would certainly be good for the heart even if not always palatable, can be achieved because 17 per cent of men and 11 per cent of women have already done so and are now reaching some of

the foundation's objectives by cutting back the amount of meat, biscuits and chips they eat in favour of more vegetables and potatoes, combined with skimmed, or semi-skimmed milk.

The British Heart Foundation's review has acknowledged one myth. Research demonstrated

that northerners do not eat more fried food than southerners. Fat consumption is about the same in the North and the South but in the South the ill-effects of a high-fat diet are to some extent balanced by the eating of more fruit and vegetables.

● Diet and Nutrition Supplement (£4.99) available from the British Heart Foundation, 14, Fitzhardinge Street, London W1H 4DH.

New flu strain threatens UK



A NEW strain of flu is on the way from China this winter. The World Health Organisation has recommended that all vaccinations this year should include protection against the new A-strain virus, known as Wuhan. Standard vaccinations include cover against three strains: two As and one B. Last year Britain had two comparatively small outbreaks, one caused by an A strain, one by a B strain.

Flu injections are recommended annually for sufferers from chronic conditions, especially heart, lung or kidney complaints, and everyone over 65. Diabetic patients are also advised to have an injection, as are those who are immuno-compromised because of disease or drugs use, including steroids.

Although the prevalent strain of flu varies each year, there is evidence that repeated annual injections increase immunity.

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Killing arthritis pain without causing ulcers

ONLY ONE person in 50 escapes suffering some form of arthritis in their lifetime. The value and dangers of anti-arthritis drugs are well known. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs let many live normal lives by reducing inflammation, pain and stiffness in their joints. But the same drugs are responsible,

particularly in the over-60s, for peptic ulceration, perforation and haemorrhage.

One answer is to add Misoprostol, which protects the stomach and duodenum, to the drug. Another is to create a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug which reduces the amount of the enzyme that causes inflammation in the joints but does not inhibit the related enzyme that protects basic physiological functions, including the protection of the stomach. Such a drug, Mobic meloxicam, has been produced for arthritis. It is the first of what could be a new range of drugs to reduce inflammation without causing ulcers.

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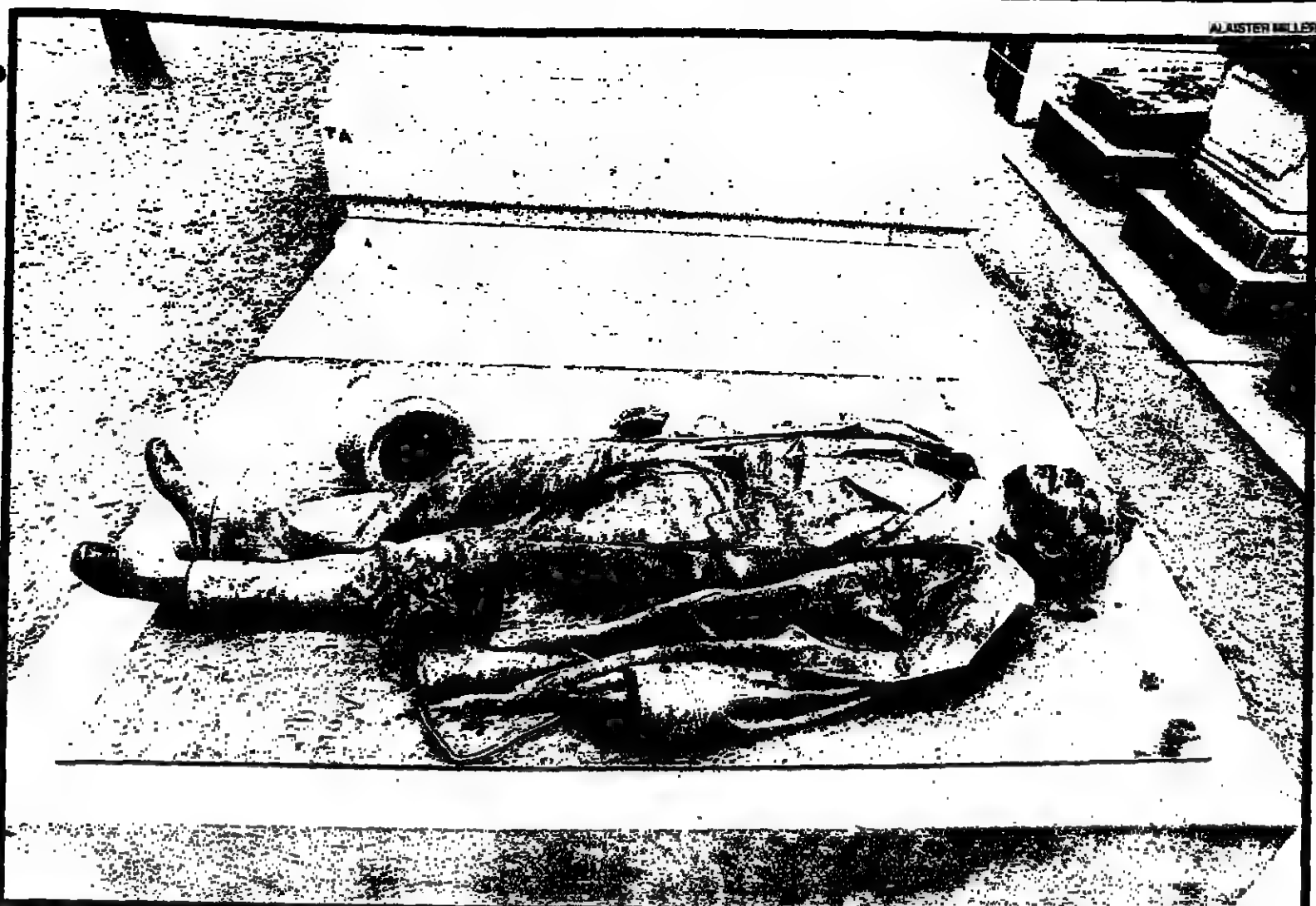
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Jocelyn Turgott, deputy editor of The Observer, speaking on the Today programme

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The tomb of Victor Noir: since he was shot down by an outraged husband, it has become a symbol of fertility and his hat is regularly replenished with flowers

The tomb that became a shrine to love

Père Lachaise Cemetery, eastern Paris. It is early morning. On the Avenue Transversale No 2, starlings feed among the vaults and classical sarcophagi, heedless of the corpse that lies nearby, its booted feet protruding from between two 19th-century mausoleums.

It is the body of a handsome young man with wavy hair and a moustache. His frock-coat and jacket have fallen open and his shirt is unbuttoned to the waist, revealing a bullet-hole in the centre of the hairless chest. The trousers are also partially unbuttoned and an unseemly bulge is clearly visible at the groin. A top hat lies on its side next to him. The man's name is Victor Noir.

A guard ambles past. His indifference is hardly surprising. Noir has been lying here for 126 years now, a recumbent statue sculpted in bronze by Jules Dalou.

A woman in her mid-thirties with nervy eyes approaches from the direction of the crematorium. Drawing alongside Noir, she deposits a postcard and single white rose in the hat before leaning forward and stroking the

Why do the lonely, the loveless and the infertile visit a bronze sculpture that has lain in a Paris cemetery for the past 126 years? **Adrian Matthews reports**

bronze erection. She is not the first to have done so. Victor is covered in verdigris, but this part of his anatomy is highly burnished.

When she has gone, I cross the path and read the card. *Dear Victor, It is indeed the worst grief not to know why, without love or hate, my heart has so much grief. Help me in my loneliness, Valerie.*

Noir was a 22-year-old journalist, shot in 1870 by Prince Pierre Bonaparte after being caught with the latter's wife. The murder scandalised Republicans and became a cause célèbre. To this day the tomb is a symbol of love and fertility and Victor's hat is regularly replenished with flowers, cards, letters and sundry tributes.

Shortly after Valerie's departure, a couple in their forties visit the tomb. Emil and Beatrice have fertility problems and are resorting to IVF treatment. A consultant told them about Victor and every weekend they drop by. Why? *On ne sait jamais: you never*

know. Test-tube science is not infallible; a little mysticism may help things along.

Then there is Ginette, a small grey widow with a carrier-bag full of scraps. She is shortly to retire from her dry-cleaning business. She often comes to feed the cats that roam here and visit Victor Noir. She shows me her minimal message for the hat: a simple question mark scribbled on the back of a business card.

She is hoping for an eligible widower to come her way and Victor is her last resort. I'm not her type, she informs me with a mischievous smile. Père Lachaise Cemetery has 109 acres, 5,300 trees, 70,000 plots and two million visitors a year. It was opened in 1804 and since that time a million people have been interred there, mostly on short-term leases. It was not an immediate success. By 1815, there were only 2,000 tombs, so a public-

ty stunt was contrived. The remains of Molière, La Fontaine and the 12th century lovers Héloïse and Abelard were shipped in. Père Lachaise was suddenly the ritziest place in town to eat dandelions by the roots and wear a little flower-garden on your tummy (as the French expression goes). Inadvertently, it also became a symbol of romantic and forbidden love.

The monk Abelard had fallen in love with his pupil Héloïse and given her a child, thereby infuriating her father's family. In Abelard's words, they "cut off those parts of my body whereby I had done that which was the cause of their sorrow". Père Lachaise, Louis XIV's Jesuit confessor, was himself a known libertine, though he suffered no such dire consequences, and over the years famous lovers and mistresses have been interred there, mostly on short-term leases.

It was not an immediate success. By 1815, there were only 2,000 tombs, so a public-

Jim Morrison's grave (now under police guard) is the most famous tomb, but the lesser-known cult of Victor Noir—who died in the name of illicit love—is a reminder that mistresses are still part of the Gallic furniture. *Le Nouvel Observateur* magazine recently sang the praises of those who tolerate infidelity in marriage. It cited the fact that, in a French poll, 86 per cent of those questioned approved of the presence of François Mitterrand's mistress and illegitimate daughter at his funeral.

However that may be, lonely singles and would-be parents also turn to Victor Noir to express their homelier desires. After all, *l'amour and la mort* may rhyme poetically, but who wants to be shot in the chest at the age of 22? And, as Valerie, Emil, Beatrice and Ginette go to show: in a world where the dead outnumber the living by more than 20 to one (according to estimates made in *Scientific American*), we may be in a minority—but we still hold a majority stake in Hope Springs Eternal Inc, that multinational futures broker of the heart.

You will find Noir in the 92nd Division of the cemetery. The groin-polishing is not de rigueur, so you can leave the

miss the last collection, try Chopin's tomb in the 11th Division. It is also a lover's letter-box.

There are other famous graves in other famous cemeteries in Paris: Montmartre, Montparnasse, or the Cimetière des Chiens at the Pont de Clichy, where (in addition to perished poodles) you will find a Russian bear, a wolf, a lioness, and the 1920 Grand National winner. But for the sheer curiosity value, my money rides on the tomb of Victor Noir. In good Eurostar French: *Ca prend le biscuit*. You can bet your shirt on it—or your hat.

Adrian Matthews's novel, *The Hat of Victor Noir*, is published by Fourth Estate (£8.99).

Chelsea sets out on a last lap from Little Rock to Ivy League

A long black limousine rolled through New England a few weeks ago, its polished tyres crunching the driveways of some of America's most estimable universities. When the doors were opened, the first to step out were alert, radio-miked bodyguards. They were followed by Chelsea and Hillary Clinton.

Chelsea, 16, is at that stage when she must decide on a college. She will leave her high school, Sidwell Friends in Washington DC, next summer.

The recent controversy over Tony Blair's choice of a secondary school for his son showed that the issue of privilege and class, of private school/grammar versus comprehensive, is still very much alive in Britain.

It is, arguably, an illustration of how stuck in clichés we are—and how impervious America is to the class debate—that a left-leaning President such as Bill Clinton can be seen to be on the point of dispatching his daughter to one of America's crucibles of privilege, and barely be criticised.

Chelsea and her mother toured such WASP (as in White Anglo-Saxon Protestant) nests as Harvard, Yale, Amherst, Brown and Princeton. If Chelsea inspected her history books, she may have been awed by some of the graduates of these institutions, who include the highest achievers and the greatest social clouters of America over the past two centuries. These establishments, and the rest of the Ivy League or Seven Sisters colleges, are the Oxbridge of America.

There has been no talk of Chelsea, a moderately successful pupil, attending one of America's state universi-

Quentin Letts on the guilt-free ambition of the Clintons to place their daughter with America's academic elite



Hillary Clinton: a Yale student



Chelsea: following her parents?

ties. Many of these are excellent, but they lack the cachet of Harvard, Amherst and Yale—the college which both the Clintons attended. The First Lady took her graduate degree at Yale's Law School, having earlier attended Wellesley. Mr Clinton also did a stint at University College, Oxford.

To the European eye it all sits a little uncomfortably with the Clintons' status as the champions of equality

and the foes of privilege. It is as if a senior Labour Party member was looking only at the best colleges at Oxford and Cambridge for his child. One commentator, Howie Carr of *The Boston Herald*, wondered sardonically how closely Chelsea's academic qualifications would be examined. "Have you ever noticed how, even in these egalitarian times, there's always room for one more rich kid?" he asked.

The message for the state universities must be a little depressing. Yet the quibbling has been low-key, and not just because so much of the American media is sanguine towards the Clintons. It may be because Americans are more positive about life in general. Thomas Conroy, a spokesman for Yale, certainly took the upbeat approach, saying: "We are terribly excited that Chelsea has shown an interest in us." Yale knows that she would probably provide good publicity.

But there is also the lack of class angst in America, despite the ample proof that class differences are alive and well. This goes beyond mere money, which decides many of the gradations in social hierarchy. The Clintons can hardly claim that the colleges Chelsea looked at last week were chosen for their geographical location. It is still possible that they will be back in Little Rock, Arkansas, next year, and it is a long way from there to New England.

The small knot of places inspected by the First Daughter suggests that she is destined to join the fast stream, mixing with the sons and daughters of corporate America, with all the Cape Cod houseparty weekends she can manage. She will have all it takes to become a latter-day Wasp.

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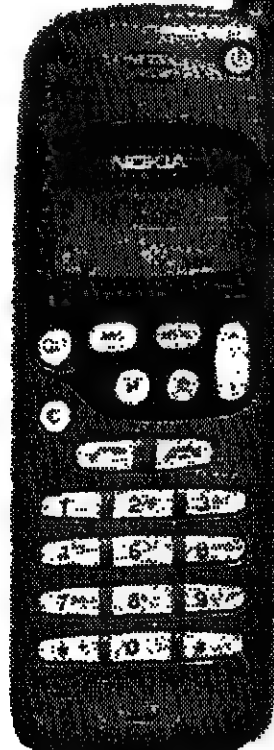
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The teacher, the bully and a smack

Lesley Chamberlain tells how she was driven to the last resort

It is ten years since the Education Act 1986 outlawed corporal punishment in state schools. Independent schools have largely followed suit. There has been a terrible side-effect of this well-meant social medicine. The statute which safeguards children against humiliating and inhuman, and indeed any, physical punishment has left adults cornered and humiliated. Teachers threatening to strike over their schools' refusal to exclude violent pupils merit our sympathy, I suspect, from my own experiences teaching in a prep school, that they have no other way to defend their right to teach effectively.

I may sound like a relic from Evelyn Waugh's day, but I ever I write my *Decline and Fall* it won't be about garden parties, hats and effete Englishmen, but about the realities of an ambitious multi-ethnic society torn between traditional pieties and self-centred aggression. It is a common misapprehension that the independent sector does not suffer from the same problems as the state sector because fee-paying parents "care" more. Not a bit of it. Parents vary in attitude more than means. In any case, parents struggling to find £800 a term hardly qualify as wealthy.

Academic and disciplinarian, my school takes boys of all abilities, including a few with learning difficulties. The most gifted go on to win places, often government-assisted, at the best schools in London. The others leave literate, confident and mostly well-mannered. We teach from the blackboard in whole classes. Our intake is a startling 97 per cent from ethnic minorities. The classroom atmosphere is shockingly disrespectful compared with the 1950s and 1960s I remember. Pupils are noisy, easily distracted, and occasionally cheeky and rebellious: conversation with one's neighbour, across the teacher, is the norm. Family life is so much less orderly, society less formal, that children find it hard to understand the concept of appropriate behaviour and terms of address. They are over-exposed to adult social life, a factor enhanced by television.

The trendy desire to make learning appear casual and fun, without the need for self-discipline, has helped to undermine general discipline. This is the subliminal message of textbooks with boxed information at scrapbook angles and points unnumbered.

Disruptive pupils can be given lines, sent to the headmaster, made to lose their breakfast or sport. The bright and willing, sometimes over-enthusiastic, have been excluded from the class in progress. But what do you do with a child immune to all available punishments, who refuses to put pen to paper, and strikes other boys?

This is the story of how the playground bully became the bully of the staffroom. For two years, from when the boy was seven, we tried. Mother came

in to hear half a dozen voices swear, hand on heart, that her angel was no angel. Still no improvement. We all threatened "it's him or me". A boy who dropped a pencil had his hand stamped on. Others had their art work spoilt. There was violence with scissors and cricket bat. Imagine as a teacher facing slow and relentless goading: toy cars wheeled before your eyes, watch alarms constantly triggered, and a desk provocatively strewn with battery-driven gadgets instead of books. The nine-year-old persecutor answers back. "You want my car? How much will you give me?" Sent out, he peels paint off the corridor walls. Some children are mildly amused. But the concentration has gone: he has broken the back of the lesson. I began to dream about the confrontations — and dread them.

On the last teaching day of the year, we were rehearsing French and German songs and poems. The children sang lustily and told me I should go in for the Eurovision Song Contest. We were all pleased with each other, except our troublemaker, who set to. I sent him outside. He pulled faces back at us, and our tune and spirit wavered.

I left the rostrum with the vague notion of sending him to the headmaster. Next minute he was looking at me in astonishment. I had slapped him. It happened like that. Subconsciously, I knew all reasonable options had been exhausted. Back in the classroom, the boys, who are instinctively fair-minded, were cheering, while I struggled not to show distress at what was in store: instant suspension and an interview with the police.

The police were wise and civilised. Still, I came within a hair's breadth of being blacklisted for life.

Violent primary pupils who have not learnt discipline and social skills at home are increasing. One answer to the problem is exclusion, but this is no remedy. It is expensive and socially undesirable, a sublimated form of violence with lifelong consequences. Another would be to equip every front desk with a panic button, and security patrols in the corridors — measures which at least one teachers' union is already discussing.

But we should recognise that most teachers are neither pervers nor sadists, and accept that the only decent option is to return to a trust in teachers' instincts. That means modifying the law. It may be difficult in the face of the European Union, but the principle is worth holding out for. It is better to accept that human motivation is not perfect than to sacrifice good education to an impotent and dishonest notion of non-violent punishment, which is the position today. Our bully, incidentally, has moved to another school.

Lesley Chamberlain is the author of several books on Russia and Eastern Europe.



Poker with our pensions

Short-term speculations by fund managers can prove ruinous to long-established investment houses

There have been few better names in British fund management than Barings, Jardine Fleming and Morgan Grenfell (which is now owned by the equally prestigious Deutsche Bank). The echoes of the great Baring collapse are still being heard. Last week Jardine Fleming was disciplined by the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission and by London's Investment Management Regulatory Organisation. This week the Hong Kong Legislative Council was holding hearings, and the chairman of the panel, Dr Huang Chan-ya, commented: "Let's not wait for another Nick Leeson." Jardine Fleming has had to pay £12 million in compensation to investors and a large fine.

Now, immediately after that, comes the suspension of three Morgan Grenfell funds, with 90,000 investors and a value of £1.4 billion. In the London regulator, raided Morgan Grenfell's offices last week after a tip-off from the market. A raid on Morgan Grenfell's offices would, not so long ago, have seemed as unthinkable as the fraud squad making a dawn raid on the Bank of England. Plainly something has been going badly wrong: damage has been done, inevitably, to the reputation of Britain's leading investment institutions.

Even those institutions not involved are bound to be affected, just as the credit of all the London merchant banks was damaged by the collapse of Barings. In any case, Peter Young, the manager of the Morgan Grenfell fund, who has been suspended, worked for the market leader, Mercury Asset Management, until April 1992. People will hardly suppose that he changed his investment philosophy all of a sudden when he moved from MAM to Morgan Grenfell.

What has gone wrong? Too many major institutions have let go of the principles of sound investment. From what we know of Peter Young's actual investment decisions, no one but an idiot would have used his own money in the way that Mr Young used the money of Morgan Grenfell's investors. Apparently he had at one point invested 48 per cent of a general European fund in Scandinavian stocks, 20 per cent in Norway alone, with a high proportion in unquoted stocks, which have the difficulties of uncertain valuation and limited liquidity. He also speculated heavily in

hi-tech companies, particularly in British Biotech, which was a big and for a time very successful holding. No one denies that Mr Young was for some years a very successful speculator. His funds outperformed most other funds in the same field. But successful speculation, taking high profits out of high risks, is not what general public investment is about. The good public investor tries to maximise profit at the lowest available risk, and is just as concerned with avoiding loss as with achieving profit. Speculative funds are entirely legitimate, but they need to be clearly labelled as such. When Morgan Grenfell took on 90,000 investors, it accepted a responsibility of prudence which Mr Young did not fulfil: the board of Morgan Grenfell should have been aware of the risks he was taking.

The Barings collapse and the Jardine Fleming disaster were also speculations which went wrong. In the case of Barings, the speculation was done with the bank's money, though that money was itself security for the bank's obligations. In the case of Jardine Fleming and Morgan Grenfell, the speculation was with outside investors' money. In all three cases, speculation was the root of the trouble, made possible by inadequate internal supervision.

In a rising market, many speculations will succeed. It does not take a clever investor, only a bold one, to pile in when there is a strong upward trend. These speculators are likely to make a lot of money for their institutions and their colleagues. They then have the aura of success. There is a natural temptation not to ask awkward questions about the risks they are taking, not to look too closely at the means by which these profits are made. When the market falls, these risks will be exposed, but for some years the reckless speculator may indeed out-

perform more cautious investors. In the days when the names of Barings, Fleming and Morgan Grenfell were being established, the City of London was a small and stable society, where the major clients changed only slowly over time. A City reputation, both for investment skill and integrity, was built slowly. The Barings, the Flemings and the original partners in Morgan Grenfell had a direct stake in their businesses which was far more valuable than any bonuses they might receive.

The modern City is not like that. It is very fluid, very much concerned with the last quarter or half year's results: successful operators are lured from one fund company to the next, like football strikers in the Premiership. In the old City, reputations could be built over generations: the new City does not think in terms of generations; too much of the time it thinks only in terms of weeks.

These disasters cannot be blamed on the regulators, either in London, Singapore or Hong Kong. In the Morgan Grenfell case, Imro seems to have discovered the problem by good market intelligence, which is the regulator's most important source of information. The standard Imro manual for fund managers runs to some 90 pages, and is itself a compression of more detailed guidance. If every fund manager followed every Imro rule, which would be a counsel of prudence, they could still take their clients' money and speculate with it. No regulatory rules can stop a fund manager buying hi-tech stocks at what proves to be the top of the market.

Anything regulation can do, the present regulatory system in London probably does reasonably well. The combined cost of regulation and compliance adds greatly to the overheads of the City: any further increase in

compliance overheads would need to be justified by real benefits. Nor could one usefully try to restore some variant of the old rules on trustees' securities. Speculative investments in derivatives and unlisted stocks have played their part in these disasters, and should be used sparingly if at all in the portfolio of general investment funds. But they have a useful function, and if fund managers want to speculate, they do not need to use these instruments to do so. The ordinary stock markets, and even the bond markets, provide plenty of opportunities.

The responsibility comes back to the directors of the investment companies concerned. They tend to be too remote from the actual investment process. None of the directors of Barings properly understood the risks that Nick Leeson was taking. I doubt whether any of the directors of Jardine Fleming properly understood what Colin Armstrong was doing, or whether any of the directors of Morgan Grenfell properly understood the risks that Peter Young was running. Fund managers like to keep the directors out of the engine room. They want to be free to take their investment decisions without the interference of old gentlemen whose best investment days were when Rowley Cromer was Governor of the Bank of England. Yet this is very dangerous. At the least, boards have a duty to satisfy themselves that the standards of fund management are those of an experienced and prudent person would adopt when investing his own money.

Fund managers themselves will always have some temptation to make their reputations by taking speculative risks. For this to be resisted requires a strong corporate culture. Outside regulation can reinforce such cultures, and is necessary, but outside regulation cannot create them.

The boards of other companies must be most concerned to avoid the damage which has been done in the past for tonight to Jardine Fleming and Morgan Grenfell being done also to their own businesses. Investors tend to take a relatively long view. They stay with the same trust for ten or 20 years at a time, or until they receive their pension. They want sound investment in well-managed businesses in markets with growth potential. They do not want a rollercoaster ride in derivatives, hi-tech stocks or unquoted Norwegian securities.

America's coercive diplomacy

For Lawrence

Freedman, Clinton had no choice

Yesterday on this page Simon Jenkins developed a familiar but formidable critique of President Clinton's cruise missile strikes against targets in southern Iraq. He saw them as another example of futile interventionism, a media event staged for a domestic political audience. The Americans appear as outsiders meddling in affairs which are not their business. As the motives are often benign, or at least presented as such — framed in terms of human rights or alleviation of suffering — an analogy for intervention might be with a "have-a-go" hero, especially the sort who acts to stop an apparently vicious mugging only to become embroiled in a grim domestic quarrel.

In Middle Eastern politics, however, the United States is not an outsider, so it cannot intervene. It is part of the regional political system. American passivity at a time of crisis can have as many reverberations as action. This position is a product of America's interests in the region, notably oil and Israel, but also a legacy of the Cold War and the role of the US in shoring up anti-communist regimes. Without this backing, some of these regimes might fall, and others would have to change their ways. America's position is shown by its aid policies, the training and equipping of local armies, its own substantial military presence, and its constant diplomatic activity.

If Washington decided to scale down its Middle East commitments, the regional impact would be immediate and momentous. In the late 1960s, Britain decided that it could no longer sustain its position east of Suez, and left its former Gulf clients in a state of chronic insecurity. Similarly, when the Soviet Union suddenly dropped out of the picture at the end of the Cold War, it left radical regimes feeling friendless and vulnerable.

For Washington, the absence of a rival superpower has made its role in the Middle East less dangerous but more complicated. Instead of contemplating the region as part of a global confrontation, it must now pay more heed to local concerns, such as the position of Israel. Without the strategic imperatives of the Cold War, Washington must also address the natural reluctance of Americans to accept huge burdens in order to influence events in distant lands. This reluctance has encouraged the search for risk-free military options which hurt the enemy but keep American troops out of harm's way, and also the tendency to simplify issues. It is easier to sell a moral crusade than the murkier necessities of power politics.

These considerations do not always make for high-quality strategy. This week's events illustrate the problems of relying on applications of armed force which, though safe, appear semi-detached from the problem, or upon rationales which, though comprehensible, do scant justice to the local complexities.

Nonetheless, within the Middle East, the point is understood well enough. The United States cannot remove Saddam Hussein, but it can set him rules to live by and see that he sticks to them. He can be contained even though he cannot be controlled, and to contain him will, on occasion, be to coerce him. This is hardly elegant and certainly not decisive. We have seen this sort of spat before and will no doubt see it again, but within its own terms it works.

That there is little vocal support from the Middle East does not mean that the Arab governments are particularly bothered. Iraq is not their top priority at the moment. In the long run, America's ability to moderate the policies of the new Israeli Government will be more important to Washington's standing in the region than its ability to give Saddam an occasional bloody nose. Nonetheless, for better or worse, America's reactions to any local challenge shape its reputation and feed expectations of how it may respond next time.

The ambiguous position of France will not be a great cause for surprise or concern. The idea that the US, Britain and France, as partners in the Gulf War coalition, have been in accord about Iraq right up to this week is untenable. France has always followed a singular Middle East policy, which has often led to tensions with its allies. In the build-up to the Gulf War, President Mitterrand exasperated them with a whole series of unilateral and fruitless diplomatic initiatives. Now President Chirac has made the Middle East a top priority, giving France a high-profile role in attempts to broker settlements over Lebanon and, now, Iraq. In the regional arms trade, which takes up an inordinate amount of local diplomatic time, France considers itself an intense rival of the United States (as, for that matter, does Britain).

America and its allies are already closely involved in everyday regional affairs. The status quo is not changed by intervention, but would be by non-intervention, by withdrawing power from the luxury of detachment from Middle Eastern events in place of the anxieties of an acknowledged connection with the West's welfare and security.

Dark times

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY, Heritage Secretary and old-stager, stands accused of abandoning her local theatre. The Redgrave Theatre in her constituency in Farnham, in Surrey, claims that it is so poorly funded that it has stopped putting on plays. Films will be shown instead.

The theatre was named after the late Sir Michael Redgrave, who lived locally. It has a 20-year history of putting on bold productions, and was due to reopen at the end of the year after months of closure. But a funding



Michael Redgrave: memory betrayed

deal has collapsed. The local council claims that funding promised by the South East Regional Arts has not materialised. James Garward, the chairman of Farnham Theatre Productions, is appalled.

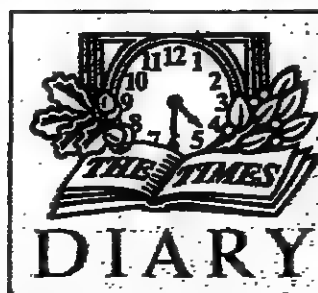
"When we reopen at the end of the year, we'll have to show films six days a week," he says. "It is a complete kick in the teeth. The regional arts board have turned turtle, and we haven't even had a word of support from the family for ages either." An Arts Council minion says: "We have had cuts of £5 million. What can we do?"

Mrs Bottomley, who does not list theatre among her *Who's Who* interests, refused to comment.

Rib-tickler

DAVID GOWER, the silver-haired former England cricket captain now turned pundit, is a dangerous man. Lee Hurst, a comedian with whom he is paired in the sporting comedy series *Think It's All Over*, had to be sent to hospital during filming.

Competing in a three-legged race against Gary Lineker and the hairy comic Rory McGrath, the



cricketer proved to be as quick down the course as he was at scoring runs. Sadly, Hurst was being dragged along in his wake, and as they crossed the line Hurst crashed to the ground.

"My elbow went into my ribs," he says, "and I had to go to hospital. Nothing was broken, but everything was torn. I was really in agony and it's still very sore."

Simon says

FOLLOWING in Cherie Blair's footsteps as a one-off editor of *Prima* magazine, the journalistically inclined actor Simon Callow has also been turning his hand to editing.

The November opera issue of *BBC Music Magazine* will be edited by Callow with contributions by Richard E. Grant, Doris Lessing and David Hare, "who

doesn't much like opera," according to Fiona Maddocks, the full-time editor.

Something of a prima donna himself, Callow quickly got the hang of expense accounts, insisting that editorial meetings be held at a very fancy restaurant in the West End.

The Pitts

AT THE start of the campaign trail on Tuesday, John Major came up with a frightfully funny joke, comparing himself to Pitt the Younger. John joshed that Pitt became Prime Minister at the age of 24 and "remained in office for 20



years before he died of overwork and port."

Pitt, he added, "used to drink a bottle of port after breakfast, a bottle of port after lunch and dinner, and I have to tell you, after six years in Downing Street, I know precisely how he feels."

The Prime Minister had used this very joke — almost word for word — to great effect at a leaving party in No 10 in January for his friend and adviser Roderic Lyne. The old ones are always the best.

Losses of £800 million are taking their toll on staff at Eurostar, the train company. Staff at all offices have been told that biscuits will no longer be available with the tea and coffee. "Cost-cutting measures," explains the management.

Hello again

THIS is Caprice Bourret. Are you pleased to see her? The nation should be, for she is the new Wonderbra girl.

Caprice is a Californian model, whose boyfriend, the Iraqi tycoon Robert Tchenguiz, was once mistakenly linked with Diana, Princess of Wales. Caprice summed up her way of life when she appeared in the recent Channel 4 series *Filthy Rich*, about affluent girls who don't need to work. "The majority of my friends are — what's a



Caprice: wonder girl

nice way? — domestically employed," she said. "It's not just lunches, travelling and charity work. I think it sounds so horrible to say they don't do anything. I never really imagine myself in a different lifestyle, ever. This is what I'm used to, this is what I'm accustomed to, this is what I was born with."

And what she was born with seems to be serving her very nicely.

P.H.S



HOSTILITIES DECLARED

The political battle now begins in earnest

Phoney wars are for August; real hostilities wait for September. The change of pace in British politics this week is unlikely to slacken in the next nine months. The serious battle for the general election has begun.

The "demon-eyes" of Tony Blair over the summer — by the Tories and by some of his own colleagues — was a mere skirmish. Now the two party leaders are racing round the country, taking advantage of what will be the last solid block of parliamentary recess time before the campaign itself.

John Major yesterday took to the skies, descending upon voters in a helicopter. Mr Blair meanwhile took to more natural territory, addressing a conference of businessmen who might still harbour doubts about Labour policies on tax, the social chapter and the minimum wage. It is a sign of Mr Blair's success (and that of his predecessor, John Smith) that Labour is no longer seen as actively hostile to the private sector. Like the Democrats in America, Britain's main opposition party is now one that business can do business with. Mr Blair does not need more than a trickle of industrialists actually lending him their support; he merely needs to ensure that his party is seen as within the pale.

When his tax policy is finally revealed, after the Budget, life will become both easier and harder. At the moment, the Tories can exploit the uncertainty about what Labour would do: once Labour's plans are published, the scope for misrepresentation narrows somewhat. Conservative Central Office will doubtless try to persuade voters that Mr Blair is not telling the truth. The political capital to be won here will be limited by the Labour leader's reputation for frankness and the Government's own record on breaking tax promises.

The less threatening that Mr Blair's tax plans are, however, the more trouble he will have with his party. That is the biggest reason for delaying them until after the Budget — and more importantly, after the party conference. If he fails to promise "higher taxes for the rich", there may be relief in the City and the CBI, but there will be calls of "betrayal" from many of his MPs and activists.

After the party conferences, the Budget and the Queen's Speech loom as important elements of both parties' battle plans. The Tories hope to use them to put their opponents even more on the defensive. The legislation in this parliamentary session will have just one objective, to embarrass the Opposition. Kenneth Clarke's room for tax cuts in November may be limited by unexpected BSE spending and low tax receipts; he will find the money somewhere.

Labour, like a yacht in a race, will tack as close to the Tories as it can, trying to take wind out of its opponents' sails. Jack Straw is not foolish enough to stand in permanent opposition to Michael Howard's criminal justice measures; indeed on gun control, Labour has shown itself more in line with popular opinion than the Tories.

All this, however, is damage limitation. It remains to be seen whether Labour is capable of regaining the initiative in the political battle. The main feature of the next nine months is likely to be a shrinking of Labour's poll rating and a recovery for the Tories. The sense of momentum will certainly boost morale in the Conservative camp. Will Mr Blair, as well as coping with the warring egos around him, be able to prevent a dangerous seepage of confidence from his own troops? That is the mark of his leadership which has yet to be tested.

ON THE EDGE

Sensitivity is needed if the loyalist ceasefire is to hold

At the end of a fraught summer for Ulster the consolations have been few. Trust between the two traditions, Unionist and nationalist, has almost evaporated. Only the maintenance of the loyalist ceasefire has given cause for hope. Now, that is being grievously tested. Violent threats have been made in an attempt to forestall yet greater violence. If the situation is not to deteriorate further then London and Dublin must show greater sensitivity to the fears of a community which requires reassurance.

Since they declared their ceasefire, Ulster's loyalist terrorists have tried to make the transition to constitutional politics. Indeed, the two loyalist parties, the Ulster Democratic Party which is associated with the Ulster Defence Association, and the Progressive Unionists, who have links with the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), have tried to outflank established Unionist politicians with their enthusiasm for the peace process. Some of that enthusiasm has been the self-interest of apologists for calculating killers. The loyalists aligned themselves with the republicans, whom they came into existence to oppose, on decommissioning arms and releasing prisoners. When the Docklands bomb showed that decommissioning was more than a negotiating nicety, the loyalist leadership was left looking, at best, naive.

The IRA's resumption of the armed struggle saw Sinn Féin shut out of talks while the loyalists stayed at the table. But it was the republicans who were seen to be driving the agenda. In an effort to secure a second ceasefire, London and Dublin courted Sinn Féin and refined the preconditions for the party's entry to talks. In order to appease republican concerns, traditional marches were rerouted. It was confirmation for many in Ulster that the peremptory rasp

of the blackmailer worked better than the modulated tones of the conciliator.

The pressure among Protestant paramilitaries to draw the appropriate lessons and return to violence has been growing and has found an outspoken advocate in the Portadown loyalist Billy Wright. Although his views have won private applause, Mr Wright's open defiance of the UVF leadership has made him a pariah in an organisation which, like the IRA, depends on discipline for its effectiveness. The loyalist leadership has instructed him to leave Ulster or face "summary justice". These leaders hope to remove the threat he poses to their ceasefire, and their credibility.

The threat has been attacked by some Unionists as a breach of the Mitchell principles of non-violence — the entry conditions to talks. The threat is undeniable proof that terrorists, from whatever tradition, are still inclined to deal with delicate problems by violent means. It points, again, to the difficulty of negotiating with men who are not natural democrats. But the loyalist leadership's actions are different from the IRA's return to violence. Loyalists are trying to maintain a ceasefire rather than end it for advantage. It would appear counter-productive, at this stage, to expel the loyalist parties from the talks.

If, however, the ceasefire is to be underpinned then other steps must be taken. Pessimism and suspicion about the direction of the peace process spread far beyond paramilitary circles. The majority in Ulster who want to remain in the United Kingdom have felt their position progressively undermined, and seen politics yield few prizes. London and Dublin have a duty to guarantee that they will not erode any further the position of a community on the edge.

THE ROMANOV FILE

Russia is at last coming to terms with regicide

As American missiles rain down on Iraq and Moscow admits that the war in Chechnya has now claimed up to 90,000 lives, Liechtenstein seems an odd place to find the Russian Foreign Minister. Yet Yevgeni Primakov is sojourning in a tiny Alpine state half the size of the Isle of Wight, not for the pleasure of its scenery, but in order to recover a precious fragment of Russia's past.

The Sokolov archive, which documents in uniquely gory detail the Bolsheviks' murder of Tsar Nicholas II and his family, has a symbolic value to the Yeltsin Government far beyond the £500,000 estimate which it failed to reach at Sotheby's in 1990. The collection was assembled in 1918 by the man appointed by the anti-Bolshevik Whites to investigate the bloodbath at Yekaterinburg, and passed to the Orlov family, who left it in a bank vault until Prince Hans-Adam II von und zu Liechtenstein bought it in 1990.

It was not without tenacity and hard bargaining that the principality's Royal Family survived the "mediatisation" which swept away Europe's other princelings during the century that separated the Congress of Vienna and the Treaty of Versailles. The present Prince had given up pleading with the Kremlin to return his family archive, which the Red Army captured in Berlin in 1945. Instead, the resourceful Hans-Adam acquired the Sokolov archive as a bargaining counter just as the collapse of the Soviet Union

Russia's present curiosity about the Romanovs and their assassination is by no means morbid. Regicide, a kind of collective parricide, scars a nation's conscience for many generations. The English took at least a century to come to terms with the execution of Charles I, revered by many as a martyr; the French have taken even longer to heal the wounds inflicted by the guillotining of Louis XVI ("Louis Capet") and Marie Antoinette.

Until the Sokolov archive and other lost documents surfaced, historians of the Russian Revolution still debated such questions as whether Lenin personally ordered the liquidation of the imperial clan. The ending of 70 years of selective amnesia has produced an explosion of research, of which Orlando Figes's *A People's Tragedy*, reviewed in *The Times* last week, is the latest fruit. Though Dr Figes is a man of the Left, his history is, as its title suggests, a lament for the destruction wreaked by the Bolsheviks, not an apologia for their achievements in the manner of the late E. H. Carr.

Boris Yeltsin's interest in all this is personal as well as political. The former Communist Party boss of Sverdlovsk (Yekaterinburg) has never been forgiven by many Russians for ordering the demolition of the building in which the butchery took place. If the off-postponed reburial of the Romanovs remains in their family vault at St Petersburg goes ahead, it may save the uneasy consciences of the Russian President

'Baseless' slur on civil servants

From Sir Donald Acheson

Sir, In the otherwise admirable programme on the recent reforms to the National Health Service broadcast by the BBC on Sunday evening (*Safe with Us: The Right Prescription*), the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, said with reference to the support given to the then Secretary of State for Health:

"He was not very well served by his officials because the officials of the Department of Health are not very high calibre and had no great sympathy with the ideas he was putting forward, so what came forward was rather garbled and unconvincing."

In these remarks Lord Lawson revives a practice of public derogation by ministers of civil servants — who have no opportunity to reply — which was prevalent during the administration in which he served. The baseless insinuation of personal partiality is particularly unfortunate.

As I discovered when I entered Whitehall in 1983 the intellectual capacity of the career civil servants was at least as high as in other professions or in academic life, and I was also able to confirm their legendary capacity to suppress personal bias and give ministers balanced, objective advice on the best evidence available.

Lord Lawson may be assured that during the period in question civil servants were working faithfully to develop the ideas put to them by ministers to the highest standard, and in the objective tradition of the Civil Service, often against impossible deadlines. They were also trying desperately to bring order to disorder, and to save a ship which seemed sometimes at risk of foundering in a sea of acrimony.

Yours sincerely,
DONALD ACHESON
(Chief Medical Officer, 1983-91),
University of London,
London School of Hygiene &
Tropical Medicine,
Keppel Street, WC1,
September 4.

Malaise at BBC

From Miss Barbara Todd

Sir, The frequent assertions of the current Director-General (most recently at the Edinburgh Television Festival, in the speech which you reported on August 24) that he has transformed a "bloated, inefficient BBC" without damaging creativity represent an arrogant disregard for much that was achieved by the Corporation before his arrival.

I retired ten years ago, having worked for the BBC in the radio, external services and appointments departments: an interesting and varied career of nearly 40 years — the last 15 years of which gave me a wide knowledge of the production areas in the regions as well as in London.

During this time there was the opportunity to recruit excellent candidates to production and technical training schemes which were rightly the envy of the profession, and the freedom to foster creativity and experimentation in the programme-making areas.

Be aware that I am not lulled into imagining a golden age; but it is invidious to imply that high standards of production and careful use of limited resources were not priorities in the past. By contrast, the present malaise and uncertainty which exists in the BBC does not, sadly, augur well for its future.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA TODD,
123 Ashley Gardens,
Thirley Road, SW1,
September 1.

Leeds candidate

From Mr Fabian Hamilton

Sir, Your report today (later editions) of my selection as Labour prospective parliamentary candidate in Leeds North East omitted to mention that each of the seven county court judgments made against me for bad debts in the last seven years has been satisfied, with all debts having been paid.

I would remind Jane Young, the Labour Party activist whom you quote as having said that no one in the business community would touch me with my "track record", that from 1994 to 1996 I was responsible on Leeds City Council for links with the business community. At no time during that period were my past business problems mentioned or deemed relevant.

Yours sincerely,
FABIAN HAMILTON,
22 Occupation Lane,
Pudsey, West Yorkshire,
September 2.

Modern nursing

From Mrs Elizabeth Jenkins

Sir, It is a pity that Sir Patrick Cable-Alexander has such a narrow view of the nurse of today ("Exam questions to baffle and bemuse", letter, August 29).

Nursing in the 1990s is complex and diverse. Not only are nurses required to give direct "old-fashioned" care, they are also responsible for co-ordinating and managing the needs of groups of patients in many different circumstances. This requires teamwork with doctors, physiotherapists, nutritionists, pharmacists, social workers and spiritual counsellors — and such wide-ranging collaboration

No Lib Dem 'silence' in EU debate

From Mr Charles Kennedy,
MP for Ross, Cromarty and Skye
(Liberal Democrat)

Sir, Your leading article today, "Silence in the centre", is quite wrong to suggest the Liberal Democrats are avoiding open debate about Europe.

At our spring conference in Nottingham a full-scale debate resulted in a vote approving overwhelmingly our detailed policy document on the inter-governmental conference. You would be mightily hard pressed to caricature either the policy itself, or that debate, as being in any way *sotto voce* or sceptical.

You dismiss as the "only" European motions at our forthcoming Brighton conference those on the common fisheries policy and BSE. But these vexed issues go to the very heart of the UK European debate.

Furthermore, it is downright contradictory to accuse us of "taking a vow of silence" while at the same time hinting of the "room for the rhetoric to be more anti-Brussels" in the CFP and BSE debates. You cannot close down debate and engineer fresh clamour simultaneously.

I look forward to your coverage of our conference get-together. You may find that the European issue surfaces in both my own and my leader's contributions as well. The Euro-interested will not find themselves stranded, silenced or soulless at the end of Brighton pier.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES KENNEDY
(Liberal Democrat Spokesman
on European Union Affairs),
House of Commons,
September 3.

University success of state schools

From the Secretary of the
Headmasters' and Headmistresses'
Conference

Sir, Congratulations to those schools which appeared in your list of schools where A-level candidates scored an average 15 Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) points or more. It is said that Dr John Rae ("Battle of the A levels", Education, August 23) turns this into a battle between state and independent schools.

It is surely not surprising that there are state schools among the top 100. Indeed, given the nature of selection of pupils in some parts of the country and the fact that fewer than 10 per cent of A-level candidates are from independent schools, one might have expected to see more.

Even some of the well-known independent schools mentioned by Dr Rae have far fewer applicants for places than the selective grant-maintained schools. We all know that a significant factor in examination success is the ability of the candidate on entry to the school. Hopefully it will not be long before tables based on "value-added" (a pupil's academic improvement during his/her school career) will appear.

Dr Rae's view that it will be better for pupils and parents when the challenge of the best state schools is increased is shared by many. At GCSE that situation is already evident. Some state schools are, of course, already performing so well (eg, achieving 100 per cent A-C grades in five GCSE subjects) that further improvement is not likely to affect statistics. At A level, where the challenges are greater, there are still significant gaps to be closed between different types of schools.

The cause is not helped by Dr Rae's unsupported statement that independent school pupils are more likely to be "busted" for using illegal drugs and are less well behaved than pupils from state schools. Such statements are more likely to cause offence than to cast light on the situation. That the

total number of pupils in HMC schools has risen in every one of the past 20 years is due not only to improving examination results but also because these schools continue to meet the demands of parents and pupils for a good all-round education.

Yours faithfully,
V. S. ANTHONY,
Secretary, The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference,
130 Regent Road, Leicester,
September 2.

From Mr Jeremy Baker

Sir, In your leading article of August 26, "Entering Oxford: University admissions statistics tell a complex story", you noted the large differences in success rates of state school and fee-paying school applicants. But you failed to discuss the impact of money. A quick look at fee-paying schools' prospectuses and local government budgets does reveal that there are financial differences between the two school sectors.

To try to explain the relative success of fee-paying schools, you gave the reason that state schools have dropped Latin and Ancient Greek from their curriculum. But, since you refused to mention money, you appeared to suggest that it is mere selfishness that stops state schools from offering Latin and Ancient Greek to pupils.

In analysing these school statistics, your news story of the same day, "Public schools win more Oxford places", would have been better headed: "Pupils who have had three times more money spent on their education sometimes gain better exam results." And your editorial should have been headed: "Oxford University often prefers applicants who have had three times more money spent on their education."

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY BAKER,
6 Crescent Mansions,
122 Elgin Crescent, W11,
September 1.

Excluded pupils

From the General Secretary
of the NASUWT

Sir, Contrary to the comments (report, September 2) of a regional official of the National Union of Teachers, about violent and disruptive youngsters, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) has no special campaign to seek publicity in such cases "in order to recruit more members". We are merely continuing a policy we have been implementing consistently for the last quarter of a century.

The number and the severity of the cases, the publicity sought by some of the families, the closure of many special schools for youngsters with ex-

treme emotional and behavioural difficulties leaving mainstream schools "to cope", the pressure produced by the plethora of recent reforms, financial cutbacks and declining standards of behaviour generally constitute new and exacerbating circumstances.

Where appeal panels take decisions at variance with teachers and governors they fatally undermine the authority of the school.

Ironically, the NASUWT shares the reported NUT experience that most cases are settled quietly behind the scenes.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL DE GRUCHY,
General Secretary,
NASUWT,
5 King Street, Covent Garden, WC2,
September 3.

India's weapons

From Mr K. K. Singh

Sir, Your Diplomatic Editor reports (August 30) that Mr Malcolm Rifkind has criticised India for not signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), adding that this could lead to the failure of the treaty.

The mandate to the Conference on Disarmament in June 1996 was to achieve universal nuclear disarmament, so as to enhance international peace and security. Does this draft CTBT aim to eliminate all nuclear weapons? It is, in reality, not a comprehensive test ban treaty but only a "nuclear weapon test explosion ban treaty".

Modern nursing

From Mrs Celia M. Deeks

Sir, I am thankful that others out there are baffled by new management in nursing practice.

I have worked for 22 years in a small local private nursing home which is subject to biannual inspection by the health authority. On the last visit, on August 23, we were astonished to be told by the inspector that we were spreading infection by hanging washing on the line in the garden: the tumble dryer only is to be used.

I suggest that housewives should be warned of this risk. Or are washing lines already obsolete?

Yours faithfully,
C. M. DEEKS

Royal consent to heir's remarriage

From Professor Rodney Brazier

Sir, The argument in Lord Rees-Mogg's article, "Charles doesn't need permission to marry" (September 2), that the Royal Marriages Act no longer applies generally to the Royal Family has been known to constitutional lawyers for many years. But how would the legal point ever be settled conclusively? By the Prince of Wales seeking a declaration that he did not need consent to remarry, and being opposed in court by lawyers acting for the Queen?

That is far-fetched, especially because in practice it has been assumed by sovereigns and their issue (including the Queen and the Prince) that consent is required for all royal marriages, which in those circumstances is practically as binding as any statute. But this legalistic argument is not the main point. The Prince of Wales, as heir to the throne, is bound to accept ministerial advice. He could not remarry if the Cabinet advised against it in a particular case.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY BRAZIER
(Professor of Constitutional Law,
The University of Manchester,
Oxford Road, Manchester,
September 3.

From Mr D. N. Chesters

Sir, Lord Rees-Mogg's fascinating article on the Royal Marriages Act 1772 and the supposed exemption from its provision in the case of the Prince of Wales seems flawed.

The line of succession from George II to Charles Prince of Wales does not contain any princesses who married into foreign families. Foreign princesses have married into the family but that does not affect the issue. Neither does the descent of the late Queen Mary (Mary of Teck) from George II through her mother, Princess Mary Adelaide, invalidate the provision.

George II was succeeded by his grandson, George III, he in turn being succeeded by two of his sons. Through another son, Edward Duke of Kent, Queen Victoria ascended the throne. However, although it could be claimed that Victoria married into a foreign family in marrying Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, in fact and in law the Prince married into the Royal Family, as by the time of the marriage Victoria was Queen regnant.

We then have direct male succession to the present Queen, Elizabeth II. It is true, contracted a marriage while still a princess, but not to a foreign house. Philip Mountbatten was a naturalised British subject, albeit before the marriage he was a prince of Greece and Denmark.

In any event I am sure the lawyers would conclude that the surest way of constraining what King George III meant in forcing the law on to the statute book was to give the Sovereign (on advice) some control of the line of succession: quite right too!

Yours truly,
D. N. CHESTERS,
Pearlsea House, Dyersfield,
Smallfield, nr Horley, Surrey,
September 1.

Royal progress

From Mr Paul H. Drexler

Sir, While the House of Windsor has received some unkind attention from Fleet Street commentators, in some parts of the Commonwealth such concerns take a back seat. At Smuggler's Cove on Tortola, in the British Virgin Islands, I recently came across the Lincoln Continental sedan in which the Queen rode during her visit to this island in 1966.

Proudly displayed inside a hurricane-ravaged beach house, guarded by a rusty five pounder and an imposing assortment of flotsam and coral, it provided a mute, yet eloquent commentary of its own.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL H. DREXLER,
50 Ivy Road,
Wellesley, MA02181, USA.

A long view

From Mr Robert G. Drake

Sir, A notice in the ophthalmic department of the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary states that: "Due to circumstances beyond our control, there may be delays in patients being seen."

Could this be a result of short-sighted health cuts?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT G. DRAKE,
Riverside,
Sands, Holmfirth, Yorkshire,
September 3.

Morningside patter

From Mrs Sheila M. Brammer

Sir, Glaswegians have known how to pronounce Edinburgh (article, August 22; see also letter, September 2) for over 20 years.

The correct version is "Embrer" and this was confirmed as the accepted pronunciation in the west of Scotland when the "Chookie Embrer's Awa Skim" was introduced. This excellent institution is known in England as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Yours faithfully,
SHEILA M. BRAMMER,
Cesterbridge House.

LORD KILLEARN

ing refugees. I point
ow that there was no
ording to official in-

Bargains of the week: from two-for-one Scottish flights to Disneyland Paris family offers

FLIGHTS

UNDER an Autumn Gold promotion, British Midland is selling two Apex tickets for the price of one on selected Anglo-Scottish flights. The return fare for two starts at £110 for travel during October and November. Details: 0900 515111.

SEEKING low-cost flights on the US West Coast? Book 14 days ahead and United Airlines shuttle flights will cost as little as £30 between Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Phoenix and £50 between San Francisco and LA. Details: 0181-990 9900.

BRITISH Airways and Qantas have £749 World Offer fares between Manchester, Australia and New Zealand. Book by October 13 for travel on selected periods during the winter. Details: 0345 222111.

THE Travelbug has negotiated lower fares to Vancouver (Rangoun) with the new Royal Brunei Airlines service starting on September 13. A round-trip business-class ticket costs £1,908 (£3,356 including tax) and economy class £539 (£2,621 including tax). Details: 0161-7408998.

BYRON has a £189 day-return excursion between Glasgow and Bristol, saving £90 on the cheapest equivalent fare previously available. Details: 0345 222111.

MAERSK Air has shaved almost £40 from the cost of a Birmingham to Newcastle business fare provided you book at least a day in advance. The new tariff costs £170 return. Details: 0345 222111.

AIR JAMAICA will provide free National Express coach tickets on selected UK cities to Heathrow for passengers booking regular-fare tickets. Details: 0181-570 7999.

HOLIDAYS

ROYALTY Breaks, including entrance to Buckingham Palace, a cruise on the Thames and a night's bed and breakfast are on offer for £77 a person from Rainbow Holidays until the end of the month. Details: 01904 643355.

SHORT breaks in the Philippines Hotel in Athens, in the shadow of the Acropolis, are available from Argos Holidays for £249 for three nights. Details: 0171-331 7070.

ENJOY the European croquet championships at Quennevais, Jersey, on a two-night break from September 13 to 15 at £205 a person. Details: 0181-891 6020.

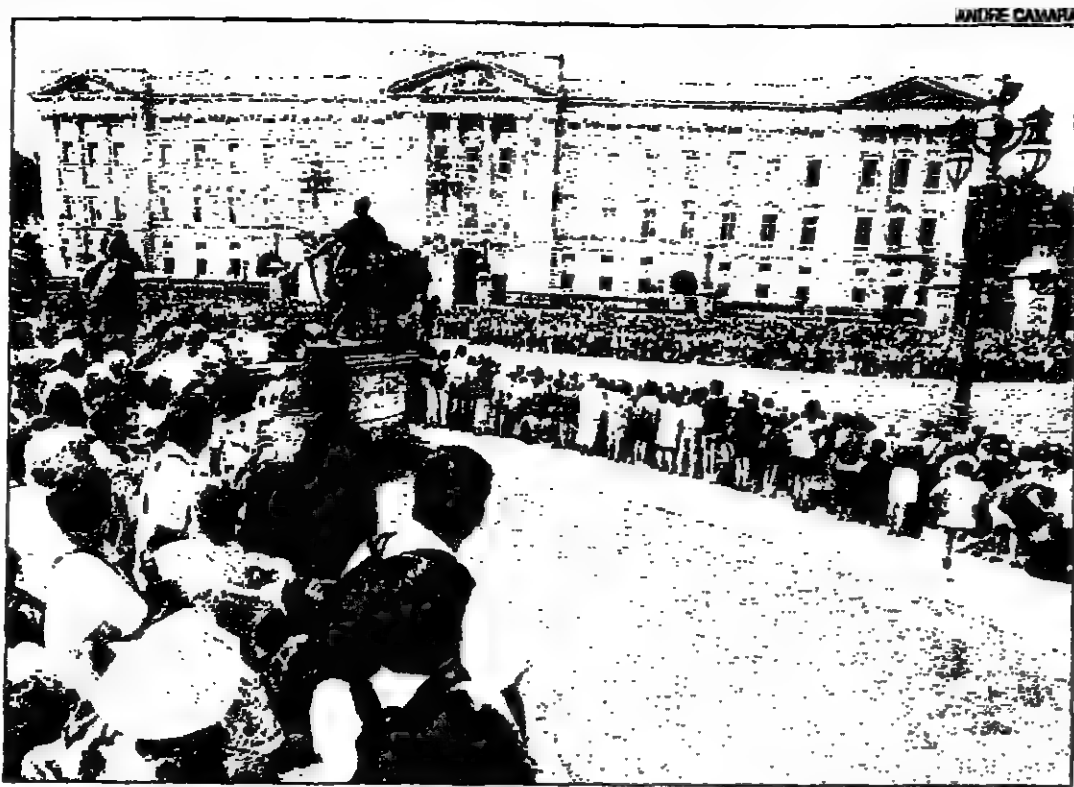
GRAND CANARY for £329 a person for a fortnight's self-catering is available from Sunworld with a flight from Gatwick on September 15, and for £349 with a flight from Bristol on the same day. Details: 0113-255 5222.

AN ADVENTURE week in Turkey for £690 a person with no single supplement is available from Simply Turkey with a flight on September 22 and includes scuba-diving, kayaking and paragliding, plus half-board. Details: 0181-747 1011.

THE YOUTH Hostel Association is offering half-price family rooms at 11 of its hostels from Cornwall to the Lake District with prices starting at £15 for a room for four. Details: 01727 855215.

NEW ENGLAND in the Fall can be sampled on a fortnight's fly-drive holiday for £499 a person with Major Travel this month. Details: 0171-485 7017.

APARTMENTS in Tuscany and Umbria are available at savings of up to £170 a week later this month.



Take a Royalty Break and you can see inside Buckingham Palace and have a night's B&B in a hotel

from Citalia. Prices, from £299 a person, include flights from Gatwick and car hire. Details: 0181-686 5533.

FITNESS-loving couples can combine a golfing holiday with a thalassotherapy week in Tunisia. Thermalia Travel's golf programme costs from £14 for a week's half-board in October and the thalassotherapy week is available for £715. Details: 0171-483 1898.

ROMAN catacombs and medieval churches can be seen on a week's walking and sightseeing break to Malta with HF Holidays next month for £453 a person, including accommodation and excursions. Details: 0181-905 9558.

FERRIES

A DISNEYLAND Paris offer is available with Siena Line Holidays through travel agents. For two adults sharing with two children, prices are £174 an adult and £58 a child for ferry, three nights at a park hotel and entry tickets. Details: 0900 747474.

FERRYSHOP offers £40 five-day returns on Sally Ferries from Ramsgate to Dunkirk or Ostend, plus £71 returns and daytrips for £10 a car. Details: 0900 706050.

SALLY Ferries is still advertising £89 return crossings to Dunkirk or Ostend from Ramsgate on

selected sailings every day. The offer applies to a car, two adults and three children under the age of 14. Details: 0345 160000.

SEA France is offering a £39.50 five-day return on Dover-Calais for a car and up to five passengers. Daytrips are also available for £10 a car and £1 a passenger (£10 supplements on Saturday travel). Available through Eurodrive. Details: 0181-324 4000.

SWANSEA Cork Ferries offers packages to the Galway International Oyster Festival (September 26-29). They cost from £142 a person and include ferry crossing and three nights' B&B, based on two sharing. Details: 01792 456116.

HOTELS

THE refurbished Blundellsands Hotel at Crosby, Liverpool, has a special Saturday and Sunday deal in October, with B&B and dinner on both nights, for £158 a couple. Details: 0151 924 6515.

GO TO the annual Nottingham Goose Fair on October 3 to 5, which features more than 600 rides, stalls and sideshows, and stay at the Nottingham Royal Moat House with a rate of £94 a person for two nights, including breakfast. Details: 0115 9369888.

A VISIT to the Beamish Open Air Museum of 1920s lifestyles, along with a cruise around Durham on the River Wear, is included in the price of £114 a person for two nights' half-board at Darlington's Blackwell Grange Hotel. Details: 01325 509955.

THE four-star Chelsea Hotel in Knightsbridge has a two-night autumn package at £119 a person, including full English breakfast or jazz Sunday brunch, plus two-course dinner. The offer, based on double occupancy, is available for any two nights between September 11 and November 30 inclusive. Details: 0171-838 9080.

VISIT the Cadbury World Chocolate Experience at Bourneville, Birmingham, and stay at the nearby Strathallan Thistle Hotel for £50 a person a night. The price, based on double occupancy, includes dinner and breakfast, admission to Cadbury World. Children aged six to 15, sharing parents' room, pay £10. Details: 0121 4597777.

THE Hotel Maurice in Paris has a two-night offer from October 15 until January 20, 1997, which includes champagne and flowers, afternoon tea, a one-day museum

pass and entry to the Picasso exhibition. Cost is about £310 a person based on double occupancy. Details: 0800 181 123.

THE luxury Hotel Splendide at Portofino on the Italian Riviera has a three-night package from September 15 until November 3 at about £656 a person based on double occupancy. Details: 0181 568 8366.

JERSEY'S Hotel L'Horizon has a three-night break until October 25, including a hire car and sea excursion to other Channel Islands. Price is £100 a person a night, based on double occupancy, with breakfast and dinner included. A sea view costs £15 extra a night. Details: 01534 43101.

A TWO-NIGHT break at the three-star Hotel Arcadia in Stockholm costs from £295 a person, including flights, and buffet breakfast. Details from: Crystal Cities: 0181 390 9900.

THE Ardaraise Hotel in the Scottish Highlands is offering a bottle of champagne for a stay of two nights and a free night's accommodation for stays of three nights or more. Prices from £42 to £71 per person between October and December. Details: 01866 833333.

CHILDREN'S drinks are refilled free of charge with the new Yogi Bear menu at Britain's 25 Hilton National Hotels. Children also receive a free fun pack. Details: 0345 581595.

NORTON Grange Village, a Warner holidays resort on the Isle of Wight, has a Viva Las Vegas three-night break at £79 a person half-board, based on double occupancy. Details: 01705 492121.

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Portland	4:15	40	4:38	40
Shanghai	11:12	51	11:40	50
Singapore	4:35	39	4:16	39
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5 1996

Morgan seeks asset freeze on manager

BY ROBERT MILLER

MORGAN Grenfell and Royal Bank of Scotland have taken joint legal action to freeze the assets of a manager responsible for £1.4 billion invested in three European funds.

The three Morgan Grenfell funds, in which are expected to resume today, are at the centre of an investigation by a City watchdog. It is understood that the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), which polices fund managers, was still questioning several senior Morgan Grenfell managers late last night.

In a writ filed in the High Court, Morgan Grenfell and RBS have asked to freeze the assets of Peter Young, the manager of the three Morgan Grenfell funds, and those of Russ Oil & Technology, a Luxembourg company in which Mr Young is said to have a personal involvement.

Mr Young, 38, and married with two children, was sus-

pended from his job on Monday after being interviewed by Imro officials. The fund manager was not available for comment for a visit to his house in Amersham, Buckinghamshire, yesterday.

Acting on a market tip-off Imro raided Morgan Grenfell's London offices late last week. The watchdog is now investigating alleged irregularities relating to the valuation of certain unquoted European investments.

RBS was appointed as trustee to two of the three funds — Europe and the £788 million European Growth — earlier this year. A spokesman for Morgan Grenfell said: "I can confirm that we have issued a writ against Peter Young in order to freeze his assets."

The five-point writ prevents the defendants, Mr Young and Russ Oil & Technology, from dealing in warrants or shares issued by a specific company, Xavier Mines.

The warrants in question

give Mr Young and the Luxembourg company the right to buy 15.5 million shares in Xavier Mines at a fixed price of 9.15 Swedish kronor a share. The writ also freezes "any other assets directly or indirectly owned by Morgan Grenfell or RBS, acting as trustees to two funds, and all such accounts and inquiries as are necessary".

Dealing in the three funds, the £788 million European Growth and the smaller Europa and European Capital Growth, resume today. Morgan Grenfell is braced for a run of investors anxious to redeem their money. Morgan Grenfell faces losses of between £150 million and £200 million.

Germany's Deutsche Bank, Morgan Grenfell's parent company, has taken certain unquoted securities held by the three funds onto its book in an attempt to ensure that the funds have enough money to meet the expected rush of investors pulling out. Morgan Grenfell said yesterday that valuations on unquoted holdings in its three European funds were carried out by independent parties, and most often by Fiba Nordic and Ice Securities.

The Morgan Grenfell case has caused dismay to investors and the City. Whatever the outcome of the investigation commentators feel that the public, who in the current low interest rate environment have been seeking higher returns than are generally available from bank and building society accounts, will have their confidence dented in the fund management industry.

Philip Warland, director general of the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds, said: "Investors in the funds should be reassured by Morgan Grenfell's very positive moves to protect investors' holdings..." He went on: "The structure of the industry and the strict rules which govern it are there to ensure that this will remain the case. Morgan Grenfell's actions will help to maintain the industry's reputation and investors can take comfort from that."

William Rees-Mogg, page 16

Jobs at risk as Booker bids to carry off N&P

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

MORE than 1,200 jobs are at risk after a proposed £266 million takeover of Nurdin & Peacock by Booker, the rival cash and carry and food wholesaler company. The deal, which is recommended by the Nurdin board, will give Booker 38 per cent of the UK's cash and carry market.

Charles Bowen, chief executive of Booker, said he expects to see around £10 million operating cost savings in the first year, because of increased buying efficiencies and head office rationalisation. He also said that around 40 of the two companies' 213 depots will be shut. He would not comment on staff cuts, but it is thought that around 1,200 jobs will go.

Booker said the Peacock family, which owns 28 per cent of N&P, had accepted the terms. SHV Makro, the Dutch company that holds 14 per cent of N&P, has not made its position clear, and there is speculation it may launch a counter-bid.

The deal, which the company will fund mostly with fixed rate debt, will take gearing at Bookers from 75 per cent to 450 per cent.

Mr Bowen said "cash and carry is under tremendous pressure as a sector and there was a lot of duplication between the two companies." But, he said, even with an increased market share, the company would

not increase its prices because "it is not in our interests to do so."

David Sims, chief executive of N&P, will stay with the company for up to a year. Mr Bowen said compensation for Mr Sims has not yet been decided.

Under the offer, N&P shareholders will receive 14 new Booker shares and £154.53 in cash for every 100 N&P shares. This value each Booker share at 208p. There is a cash alternative of 201p per share.

Nurdin & Peacock reported interim pre-tax profits of £7.3 million for the six months ended June 28, compared with £15.9 million a year ago. Earnings per share fell to 4.1p from 10p but the interim dividend has been increased from 2.27p to 3p.

Booker made a pre-tax profit for the six months ended June 15 of £32.6 million compared with £27.9 million. With exceptional stripping out, profit declined from £32.2 million to £28.1 million. Earnings per share, excluding exceptional, declined from 9.8p to 7.8p per share but the interim dividend will be increased from 7.9 to 8.1p.

Analysts said it was a good deal for both sides and N&P shares closed up 68½p at 200½p while Booker were 22½p better at 383p.

Tempus, page 26



Brokers and underwriters watch David Rowland as he rings the Lutine Bell yesterday

Lutine Bell rings in new era

BY JON ASHTWORTH

THE Lutine Bell rang out at Lloyd's of London yesterday, heralding a new dawn for the world's oldest insurance market. Thousands of brokers and underwriters watched David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, perform the historic ceremony, helped by Anthony Nelson, Minister for Trade. The applause was rapturous.

The future of Lloyd's was

formally secured hours earlier when Mr Nelson approved Equitas, the reinsurance company created to "draw a line" under 1992 and prior year losses. The Lutine Bell rang three times: in sorrow for those who suffered; in joy for the solution; and to signal the start of a new journey. Mr Rowland said: "We came extremely close to disaster,

and we are never going to do it again." He urged his audience to restore Lloyd's to its rightful place, saying: "Let's get on with the job."

Mr Nelson hailed the occasion as "a great milestone for Lloyd's, the insurance market, and the City of London". He said Lloyd's faced an enormous task in clawing back ground lost to its competitors.

Refuge raises United terms

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

REFUGE ASSURANCE has bowed to shareholder pressure and made a last-ditch attempt to save its proposed £1.5 billion merger with United Friendly by altering the terms of the deal.

With only four days to go before a vote on the merger at an extraordinary meeting to create a new company, United Assurance, Refuge yesterday came up with an improved offer. Its shares rose 8½p to 407p.

The deal is designed to meet the demands of Britannic, the largest shareholder in Refuge with 10 per cent of shares, Mercury Asset Management with 5 per cent and Prudential, which holds a 6 per cent stake.

Perpetual, a leading fund manager with a 7 per cent stake, does not believe the deal goes far enough and has said that it will vote against the merger.

The focus of discontent among institutions has been their right as shareholders to the funds in the ordinary branch inherited estate.

Also known as "orphan assets", this inherited estate is a sum of money estimated to be over and above what is deemed necessary to pay out bonuses to Refuge policyholders in the future.

Shareholders argue that a proportion of these funds belong to them. When the merger was announced on August 8, the funds were missing from Refuge's assessment of its value because it did not believe the Department of Trade and Industry would allow it to distribute them in the future.

First Marathon (UK) Ltd, the British unit of the Canadian investment company, estimates the surplus to be worth £2.50 a share. Perpetual says the original deal undervalued Refuge by 1400 million.

Under the new terms announced yesterday, shareholders will be issued with a warrant or other financial instrument entitling them to any surplus payouts in the future. The improved offer is likely to satisfy MAM, Prudential and Britannic.

John Cudworth, Refuge chief executive, said yesterday that he proposed to open the EGM and then adjourn it until September 26 to give shareholders time to consider the improved deal.

Facing shake-up, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3872.7	(+16.8)
Yield	4.04%	
FT-SE A All shares	1817.1	(+8.22)
Nikkei	20201.57	(+3.72)
New York		
Dow Jones	5844.32	(-4.07)
S&P Composite	584.22	(-0.60)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5%)
Long Bond	8.25%	(8%)
Yield	7.05%	(7.05%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	100%	(100%)

STERLING		
New York	1.5675*	(1.5685)
London		
\$	1.5655	(1.5679)
DM	2.3204	(2.3274)
FF	7.9251	(7.981)
SP	1.8872	(1.8932)
Yen	170.17	(171.35)
£ Index	85.6	(86.8)

DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.4859*	(1.4850)
FF	5.0851*	(5.0805)
SP	1.2657*	(1.2650)
Yen	106.88*	(109.27)
£ Index	96.2	(96.4)

TOKYO		
Close	108.80	
15-day (Nov)	521.50	(521.40)

GOLD		
London close	398.75	(398.85)

* denotes midday trading price

Decision on rates awaited

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MARKETS nervously await the first opportunity for the Bank of England to signal a change in interest rates today.

The meeting yesterday between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, lasted only 35 minutes and although most City analysts believe that unchanged rates are the most likely outcome they want to be sure.

The Bank prefers to signal any change as soon after the meeting as possible and it first operates in the money markets at 9.45am.

On balance, economists believe the economic case for a rate cut is too weak for the Chancellor to risk an all-out fight with the Bank, which last month called for rates to be increased. Short sterling futures traded on the Life market are pricing in unchanged rates for the rest of this year.

Tesco launches new price war

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TESCO announced a wide range of price cuts yesterday, sparking fears that supermarkets are set to embark on a costly price war and triggering a sharp fall in shares of the main food retailers.

Tesco will launch its Unbeatable Value campaign on September 9 during which 600 of its most popular products will be sold at unbeatable prices. If the products are cheaper elsewhere, Tesco will refund twice the difference.

An internal company docu-

ment suggests that both products would have to be bought on the same day, and the non-Tesco product within three miles of the store. Tesco is investing around £30 million in the campaign.

Analysts said that Tesco has been increasing its prices gradually in recent months. They expect other supermarkets to respond to the move, particularly Asda, which has built its reputation on low prices. J Sainsbury has already announced a price cam-

paign, called Autumn Value, which it launched on September 1 and involves special offers on 700 products. "We're confident this is a very strong promotion and we will not be making any changes to it," a Sainsbury spokesman said.

The smaller chains, such as Kwik Save and Iceland, could have most to lose from a price war, analysts said. Tesco closed 9p lower, at 291p; Sainsbury fell 8p, to 376½p; Safeway fell 9½p, to 323p; and Iceland fell 3p, to 88½p.

Trafalgar sued over Ritz deal

BY PAUL DURMAN

TRAFALGAR HOUSE, the construction and engineering group, is being sued over the sale of the Ritz Hotel in Piccadilly, central London, and that it worked on the deal for several months. The little-known firm claims that it introduced several potential buyers, and was instrumental in the eventual sale to Ellerman Investments — the company run by the Barclay twins, Frederick and David.

It is understood that Trafalgar House will say that it was already talking to the Barclay brothers, and, therefore, does not owe Agincourt any fee. Since the sale of the Ritz, the struggling Trafalgar has been taken over by Kvaerner, the Norwegian shipping and engineering group.

Agincourt and Trafalgar have spent several months wrangling over the claimed £750,000 commission. The writ was issued on Agincourt's behalf by Wright-Morris, whose senior partner formerly worked for Trafalgar.

Which is the only airline to offer complimentary

limousines

at
137 U.S.
airports?

BBA search for bolt-ons as interim rises 146%

By Keith Rodgers

BBA, the engineering group that dropped its bid for Lucas in June, is hunting for bolt-on acquisitions in Europe, North and South America and the Far East.

Roberto Quarta, chief executive, said yesterday that he saw opportunities to expand in friction materials for automotive brakes, aviation services and non-woven fibres. He was speaking as the company reported a 146 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £83.1 million, including exceptional items. But he added that the timing was not right for a large takeover to move the group into new businesses.

Pre-tax profits before exceptional items in the half year to June 30 rose 19 per cent, to £72.1 million. BBA made a gain of £11 million on the sale of Duralay, the carpet underlay maker, to a CINVEN-backed management buyout in May. Earnings per share were up 24 per cent, at 10.3p.

Group turnover on continuing operations increased 24 per cent, to £552.4 million, while the operating margin rose 1.2 per cent, to 13.5 per cent. Excluding Fiberweb, the newly acquired non-wovens textiles business, turnover,

held back largely by weakness in the German friction materials business, grew by just 5 per cent, to £468.9 million.

The group achieved a net cash inflow of £92.5 million, which left net cash of £33.4 million. Mr Quarta said the company would continue to emphasise cash generation and believes there is "enormous growth value to come".

Operating profits in the transportation division, which includes friction materials and Signature, the US aviation services business, grew by 11 per cent.

Mr Quarta said that the company was looking to double the capacity of its US friction business to secure a 10 per cent share of a \$1.5 billion annual market, and is investing £120 million in its German brakes operation.

He added that the group intends to expand the frictions business in China, Brazil and India, and saw only limited opportunities for both friction and Signature in Europe.

The interim dividend, payable on November 15, was increased from 1.8p to 2.1p. Kleinwort Benson expects pre-tax profits of £142 million in the second half.



Half-year revenue and earnings are up for John Percy-Davis, chief executive, left, and David Woodward of Nelson Hurst

Nelson Hurst beats fall in premiums

NELSON HURST, the insurance broker, fought off a sharp drop in premium rates to lift pre-tax profits by 13 per cent to £6.12 million in the six months to June 30 (Fraser Nelson writes).

The group, whose chairman is David Woodward, paid out £420,000 to the Equitas rescue plan for Lloyd's Insurance, to whom it passes over half of its risks.

Revenue rose to £29.3 million (£25.8 million) and earnings to 7.9p (7.6p). The interim dividend, payable October 9, is 2.6p (2.85p).

Labour gives promise that it would avoid 'City-bashing'

By Robert Miller

AN INCOMING Labour government would not indulge in a bout of "City-bashing", according to a leading member of the Shadow Treasury team.

Mike O'Brien, who was yesterday confirmed as a successor to Alistair Darling, Labour's former City affairs spokesman now promoted to Shadow Chief Secretary, said:

"The City employs 2.8 million people and contributes 18 per cent to our GDP. We want not

only to protect those jobs but to encourage even more to be created."

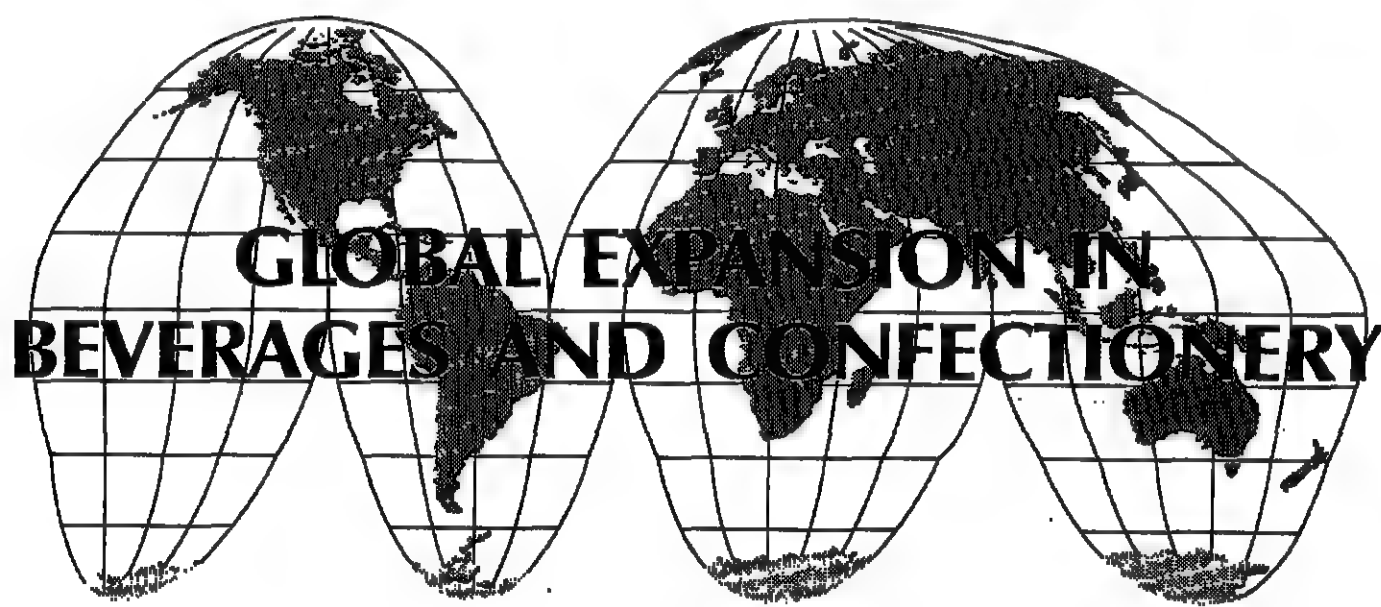
Mr O'Brien, a former member of the Commons Treasury Select Committee, promised that his party would look to ease the burden and cost of City regulation on firms, while keeping investor protection at the top of the agenda.

Labour would continue to support the tax breaks associated with Peps and Tassas, said Mr O'Brien, and it would

extend the Tessa savings concept to a new Individual Savings Account to encourage people on lower incomes to save for the long term.

The new Shadow Treasury team, announced yesterday by Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, will also consider what role National Savings has in its plans to fund government borrowing and also offer competitive savings accounts.

Pennington, page 25



1996 HALF YEAR RESULTS (Unaudited)

"Cadbury Schweppes has made further progress in the first half of 1996. Sales are up 13.3%, pre-tax profit up 12.0% and an interim dividend of 5.2p, an increase of 6.1%, declared. The lower growth rate in earnings per share largely reflects the tax impact of a write down of bottling assets in France; without this mainly non cash, one-off charge, the earnings per share would have been 15.2p compared to 12.1p reported.

Sales	£2,293m	+13.3%
Trading Profit	£263m	+11.4%
Pre-Tax Profit	£231m	+12.0%
Earnings per Share	12.1p	+ 3.0%
Dividend per Share	5.2p	+ 6.1%

There has been growth in the base business in both beverages and confectionery. The Dr Pepper/Seven-Up acquisition is fulfilling our expectations and the confectionery developments in China, Poland and Russia are coming on stream. We have reached agreement to sell our 51% interest in Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages for £622.5 million which will produce a substantial one-off gain in the full year, reduce borrowings and give the Group greater flexibility in future developments.

The outlook for the year as a whole is positive with further growth expected for both business streams."

Dominic Cadbury
Dominic Cadbury, Chairman

Cadbury Schweppes

BRITAIN'S MOST ADMIRABLE COMPANY*

*Management Today, 1995 Annual Survey

Smiths in move to 'Big Six' auditor

The last FT-SE 100 company still to be audited by a medium-sized auditor is switching to a "Big Six" firm. Smiths Industries is to recommend to its annual meeting in November that the audit be moved from Clark Whitehill, Britain's 10th largest accountancy firm, which has done the work since 1922, to Price Waterhouse.

Sir Roger Hurn, chief executive, said Smiths felt it needed an auditing firm whose international presence and experience were clearly second to none. Moment of truth, page 27

Board attacked

Northern Ireland's Industrial Development Board came under fire after the Benelux factory in Luncavady, Co Londonderry, that made compact disc covers shut with the loss of 100 jobs a year after it opened amid financial difficulties at its parent company in Hong Kong. William Ross, Ulster Unionist MP for Londonderry East, said that serious questions needed to be asked about IDB investments after the £36 million factory opened with the help of £10.4 million of taxpayers' money.

Homes boost

Average house prices in Scotland rose 3.1 per cent in the three months to the end of July. TSB Bank reported in its quarterly Scottish house price monitor. The rise continued an upward trend recorded in the spring. The bank said its index has now been rising for the past six months.

Air talks

The US Transport Department is ready to resume talks with Britain on an "open skies" aviation accord, but may first reach a similar agreement with France. Britain has balked at opening Heathrow airport, the base of British Airways, to more flights by American carriers, a chief US demand.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.08	1.92
Austria Sch	17.38	15.88
Belgium Fr	50.92	46.62
Canada \$	2.254	2.094
Cyprus Cyp	0.7539	0.6989
Denmark Kr	9.58	8.75
Finland Mk	7.63	6.98
France Fr	9.57	8.72
Germany Dm	2.481	2.271
Greece Dr	207	192
Hong Kong \$	12.75	11.78
Ireland Pt	115	95
Israel Sh	1.016	0.927
Italy Lira	2085	2230
Japan Yen	165.40	154.00
Malta	0.601	0.548
Netherlands Gld	2.192	2.022
New Zealand \$	2.41	2.19
Norway Kr	10.62	9.82
Portugal Esc	248.00	231.00
S Africa Rd	7.92	6.82
Spain Ptas	203.00	192.00
Sweden Kr	11.05	10.25
Switzerland Fr	2.025	1.848
Turkey Lira	1378.04	1280.04
USA \$	1.695	1.536

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Oil markets calm amid Iraq tension

OIL markets reacted calmly yesterday to news of more missile strikes on Iraq, but analysts say that nervous traders are reluctant to take profits amid continuing tension in the Middle East. After shrugging off news of the second strike on Iraq, prices on London's International Petroleum Exchange hit session highs on news of a third hit in the expanded no-fly zone in southern Iraq. October futures for the international benchmark Brent Blend were down three cents on the day, at \$22.18 a barrel, but well above the day's low of \$21.65.

Oil will be prone to "price spikes" while the stand-off between Baghdad and the US continues, traders said. Brent has risen more than \$1 this week and is nearly \$6 above levels of this time last year. Baghdad's attacks on Kurdish strongholds have brought a delay in implementing a UN agreement letting Iraq sell \$2 billion worth of oil to pay for food and medical supplies. Analysts wonder whether, without Iraqi oil, peak winter demand can be met in industrialised nations.

US rate fears recede

BUILDERS trimmed their spending on new projects sharply in July to the slowest pace in five months, the Commerce Department said yesterday, offsetting some concern that the US economy needed an interest rate rise to slow it down. Total spending on private and public-sector construction dropped 1.4 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$554.7 billion after a revised 0.7 per cent June rise. It was the biggest monthly drop since a 2.6 per cent decline in February.

BTP in \$7.5m expansion

BTP, the international specialty chemicals group, is acquiring the leather processing chemicals business of Henkel in America for \$7.5 million in cash. The business, which will form part of BTP's Hodgson Process Chemicals subsidiary, includes production facilities in Wisconsin. BTP's Performance Chemicals division is already a big producer of leather-processing products. Rob Martin, BTP finance director, said the acquisition would be a springboard into the US leather market.

Yorkshire Food loss

YORKSHIRE FOOD GROUP incurred a pre-tax loss of £4 million for the half year to June 28 as poor US trading and the costs of cutting back its UK business took their toll. Losses were £35,000 in the first half of the previous year or 8.68p a share (0.24p loss). The interim dividend is held at 0.88p a share, which is due on November 8. Turnover increased 9 per cent to £77.6 million, which included £60.9 million from continuing operations.

US office suppliers link

STAPLES, the American office products company, is buying Office Depot, one of its main rivals, for \$3.48 billion. The combined company, to be known as Staples The Office Depot, will have more than 1,100 store locations and revenues of \$10 billion, making it by far the biggest office products store chain in North America. The firms will combine their mail order and contract printing businesses. Staples operates 517 office products superstores in the US and Canada.

Argyle looks to India

THE Argyle diamond mine in Australia has moved to strengthen ties with India after its decision in June to withdraw from De Beers' marketing arm, the Central Selling Organisation (CSO). Mark Hooper, general manager - commercial for Ashton Mining, which co-owns Argyle with RTZ-CRA, the mining group, said Argyle would continue to work closely with the Indian cutting and polishing industry. India had expected Argyle to renegotiate its supply contract with the CSO.

London-Shanghai pact

TIES between London and Shanghai have been strengthened with the signing of an historic protocol between Sir John Chalstray, Lord Mayor of London, and Xu Kuangdi, Mayor of Shanghai. The agreement, 11 months in the making, should help UK firms to make inroads in Shanghai, in return for providing training and expertise. UK insurers have been unable to obtain licences to operate in Shanghai. Sir John is leading 17 City businessmen on an eight-day visit to China.

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□ Asda's old-fashioned election issue □ Blair woos business □ Reed finds multimedia no bar to monopoly

ARCHIE NORMAN is an ambitious man. At the age of 42 he has been the finance director of Kingfisher and the saviour of Asda. Now he is planning to move into politics. But he may not stand in the next election because of the likelihood that his chosen party, the Conservatives, may not win.

However, Archie has a great deal to learn about democracy and communication. And next Wednesday, at Asda's annual shareholders' meeting in Pudsey Civic Hall, he might get a lesson in both, which will stand him in good stead for his new career.

The meeting should be a celebration of Archie's brilliant career. In the four years since he took the helm at Asda he has turned it from the sick man of British food retailing to a strong, independent force. It cannot avoid being sucked into the price war being waged between J Sainsbury and Tesco, even if it only cuts a handful of prices to be seen to be doing something. But at least it has a good enough product mix, bringing in clothes and household goods, to be well insulated from its worst excesses. Asda shares have risen four-fold during Archie's reign.

But Pirc, the corporate governance lobby group, is angered

by a rather high-handed attitude. For instance, why couldn't Archie have announced that he was moving up to be chairman a week earlier, so including it in the annual report and giving shareholders a chance to vote on it? And, for that matter, why do Asda's articles of association not require the chairman and chief executive to be elected every three years, as is the standard policy of most companies, most institutional shareholders and both the Association of British Insurers and the National Association of Pension Funds?

Asda argues that Archie would have been re-elected anyway. Following that logic, John Major should not bother to stand for re-election in his Huntingdon constituency. With a 48,000 majority, the Prime Minister is certain to be voted back in next time, even if there is a Labour landslide.

In this matter Asda is a bit of a dinosaur. The idea of insulating the chairman and chief executive of a company against the regular

requirements of corporate governance was common in the bad old days, but has been progressively weeded out as companies are made more aware of how ludicrous these provisions are. After all, the chairman and chief executive are merely directors who happen to be placed in those particular positions.

As a political animal, Archie Norman must realise the perception of doing something is often as important as actually doing it. Re-electing him may be a formality. But so is the State Opening of Parliament. And Archie hopes to be attending that in the not too far distant future.

Small print fails Labour prospectus

EVERY new outpouring from new Labour increases the impression that it would do little of substance in office to change central Conservative policies. To hide this, however, it seems wedded to a baneful era of



political correctness. At the macro-economic level, Labour seeks the same holy grail of stability promised, if not delivered, by Conservatives. On one crucial uncertainty, however, Labour remains as equivocal as the Tories. It might, or might not, want to join a European currency. Both agree it would be folly to commit yourself at this stage. But only political convenience is really likely to affect the decision between now and 1998. Labour promises not to set more regulation on business. Yet this implies a narrow view of business. It threatens much increased regulation of utilities,

road and rail transport and tobacco. There will be more regulation of payments.

The latter aims to help small and medium-sized enterprises, whose virtues all parties recite as a mantra. But one or more parts of that vast group would be worst hit by regulation of minimum wages, youth training and EU-style job protection.

New Labour rightly wants to cut taxes paid by the poor. But it has to take the expensive and probably unrealistic route of aiming for a 10 per cent start-up rate of income tax. A far cheaper and more effective aid to poor families would be to bring in a much higher transferable married allowance, but this is no longer politically correct.

Long-term investment is to be promoted. How? Labour will encourage financial institutions, the great short-termists, to take a greater role in corporate governance. "Fat cats" will doubtless stay in the pillory.

Tony Blair rightly trumpets Labour's conversion to sound,

modern government and market economics. Business may find the politics of righteousness worse than the politics of envy.

Court battle for new US lawman

GARY REBAK is described as a "Silicon Valley anti-trust lawyer". Given the eagerness of Americans for litigation and the capacity of high technology firms to do the dirty on each other, this must be a lucrative job.

Yesterday he filed a petition on behalf of Reed Elsevier attempting to have stronger restrictions put on the Thomson Corporation's \$3.4 billion takeover of West, the legal publisher. Reed's worry is the combined group will have a monopoly of US legal reports, so choking the supply of information to Reed's Lexis-Nexis on-line service.

Reed paid \$1.5 billion for Lexis-Nexis. So far it has been a good purchase. But Reed fears that a combined Thomson-West could

use its dominance in the market for hard-copy legal information to challenge Lexis-Nexis's strong position in the on-line business. Having seen the rug pulled from under the market for *Official Airline Guides* shortly after Reed bought it from the administrators of the Maxwell empire, Reed must be acutely aware of the problem.

Reed has been developing other on-line services that it can run on Lexis-Nexis, notably a scientific publishing business. But a company more fleet of foot would have developed these independently, perhaps jointly with a clever little group like Maid, instead of splashing out fortunes on Lexis-Nexis.

In publishing, thanks to the growth of on-line services and the Internet, large means vulnerable these days. Big companies have to fight to maintain their market position against some predatory minnows.

This is exactly what Thomson and West are doing by coming together. Merging could give them the power to dictate market prices. And if Reed does not show a flair for innovation for which it is not historically renowned, it could be stuck with a supposedly high-growth on-line business that hardly grows at all.

Profits up 12% despite effects of marketing war with Coca-Cola

Dr Pepper refreshes Cadbury

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

SALES of the Dr Pepper soft drink helped to put some fizz into Cadbury Schweppes's half-year results with the company yesterday unveiling a 12 per cent rise in profits to £231 million.

In America Dr Pepper sales outstripped market growth at 6 per cent. The brand also made a successful return to the UK market. Cadbury predicted that sales would grow

by around 75 per cent to 15 million litres by the year end.

But 7-Up, the other leading brand Cadbury acquired as part of its \$1.7 billion purchase of Dr Pepper last year, was hit by a fierce marketing battle with Coca-Cola's Sprite drink.

David Wellings, chief executive, described trading as robust and predicted continuing single-digit growth in the mature Western soft drinks and confectionery markets.

The results, at the upper end

of expectations, pleased the City and shares in the company rose 8p to close at 520.5p.

Total sales rose 13 per cent to £2.3 billion. Cadbury estimated the underlying growth in profits at around 5 per cent. Profits in the confectionery business rose 3 per cent to £105 million.

Cadbury's new factories in Russia and China have now come on stream and the company said it had reached breakeven point in Poland.

The soft drinks business increased profits by 20 per cent to £198 million. In the UK, profits declined by around 7 per cent.

Mr Wellings will retire next week to be replaced as chief executive by John Sunderland, the former head of Cadbury's confectionery business. The interim dividend rises 6 per cent to 5.2p, payable on November 22.

Tempus, page 26

Wedgwood profits rise by 28%

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

WATERFORD Wedgwood, the ceramics and crystal manufacturer, said yesterday that improved sales in America and Japan helped to lift interim pre-tax profits by 28 per cent, to £19.5 million, in the six months to June 30.

Earnings per share rose 32 per cent, to 11.08p, and the company declared an interim dividend of 10.30p a share, up from 10.25p, payable on November 29. Sales rose 8 per cent, to £163 million.

Tony O'Reilly, chairman, said the results reflected the success of the company's marketing strategy and the international reach of its brands. New product launches will be accompanied by further investment to reduce manufacturing costs.

Hickson back in black with £1m first-half profit

By PAUL DURMAN

HICKSON International, the chemicals company that has struggled with problems through the 1990s, has pulled itself back into the black with a first-half profit of £1 million.

Sir James Hann, chairman, said that the results understated the extent of the progress the management had made in turning round the business. The second half would benefit from savings made from 617 job cuts and the sale or closure of 18 plants.

Hickson has also won new orders for its PharmaChem operation in Cork in the Irish Republic. This has been running at close to half capacity since it lost the £8 million a year contract to supply the manganese catalyst used in Persil Power washing powder. Hickson is planning further disposals to cut its borrowings, which at June 30 stood at £93.3 million, or 87 per cent of

shareholders' funds. Sir James said he wanted to cut debt by 20-25 per cent by Christmas. Restructuring costs and losses on disposals last year pushed Hickson to a full-year loss of £43.3 million. The first-half pre-tax profit in 1995 was £6.1 million.

This time, protection and coatings was the only division to increase profits, to £5.9 million (£5.5 million). Hickson has high hopes for a branded timber protection that it is making for the US market.

Profits at Hickson & Welch fell back to £400,000 (£1.5 million) on reduced sales of £34.6 million. The performance chemicals division, including PharmaChem, turned in a loss of £300,000 (£2.7 million profit). Hickson is not paying an interim dividend.

Tempus, page 26

Medihealth joins race for depots

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

MEDIHEALTH, an independent pharmaceutical wholesaler, made a provisional bid yesterday for the Lloyds Chemists wholesaling depots, which must be sold before UniChem or Gehe can renew their attempts to buy the Lloyds business.

Mike Retter, chief executive of Medihealth, which has four depots and claims up to 4 per cent of the pharmaceutical wholesaling market, said he believes that as many as seven companies or management teams have made indicative bids for one or more of the depots.

Medihealth hopes to buy all the depots as a going concern, but Mr Retter said that potential buyers have been given only limited information about the depots, making it difficult to value them. The Department of Trade and Industry has indicated it will take another fortnight to check the credentials of the bidders.

TOTAL 1996 FIRST HALF RESULTS

First half 1996
(in millions of French francs)

Sales

80,884 | 67,209

Cash flow

7,007 | 5,624

Operating income

4,958 | 3,472

Net income (Group share)

2,630 | 1,809

Net income (Group share) before non-recurring items

2,630 | 1,809

Earnings per share (FF)

11.0 | 7.8

Operating income by Business Segment (FF million)

4,958 | 3,472

Investments Dividends (FF million)

6,840 / 1,490 | 5,156 / 1,761

Net debt to equity ratio

18%

FIRST HALF 1996 RESULTS INCREASE: NET INCOME +45% NET INCOME BEFORE NON-RECURRING ITEMS +34%

TOTAL's Board of Directors, chaired by Thierry DESMAREST, met on September 5, 1996, to review the consolidated financial statements for the six months ended June 30, 1996.

Group sales rose by 20 per cent versus the 1995 first half to a level of 80.7 billion French Francs (FF). Operating results increased by 45 per cent versus the 1995 first half to FF 4,958 million. Consolidated net income rose to FF 2,630 million, representing an increase of 45 per cent over the 1995 first half net income and 94 per cent over the 1995 first half net income before non-recurring items. There were no non-recurring items in the 1996 first half results. Net income per share increased by 41 per cent to FF 11.0 per share based on a diluted number of shares outstanding of 238.9 million in the 1996 first half.

□ A better environment

Comparing the 1996 first half with the 1995 first half, changes in the main external economic factors had a positive impact of approximately FF 700 million on the Group's operating results. Brent crude prices were strong during the 1996 first half. Refining margins continue to be very volatile

□ A strong rise in operating income due to upstream production growth and productivity gains

Each sector contributed to the Group's operating income increase:

In millions of French Francs	1 H 96	1 H 95	1996/1995
UPSTREAM	3,300	2,181	+51%
DOWNTREAM	874	409	+53%
CHEMICALS	984	912	+8%
Total operating income	4,958	3,472	+43%

□ Upstream is the main driver for the Group's rising profitability

The 53 per cent improvement in Upstream operating income stems from the combination of three factors, each having nearly the same impact: an increase in hydrocarbons prices, an increase in production volumes, and a decrease in technical costs. The Group's production grew by 15 per cent to 766 mboc/d (thousands of barrels of oil equivalent per day) versus 668 mboc/d in the 1995 first half. Production outside the Middle East increased by 28 per cent to 478 mboc/d (including 213 mb/d of liquids and 1,458 Mc/d of gas). Middle-East production was stable at 288 mb/d.

□ A solid financial position

Cash flow increased by 25 per cent to FF 7,007 million in the 1996 first half versus FF 5,624 million in the 1995 first half. Gross investments in the 1996 first half were FF 6,840 million, an increase of 33 per cent over the 1995 first half, reflecting the strong investment programme for the Upstream as well as the Chemicals acquisitions. Dividends were FF 1,490 million, based on selling prices, versus FF 1,761 million

□ Outlook

Early in the 1996 second half, the operating environment is generally unchanged and production continues at a high level. For year end, the outlook for the Brent crude price is more uncertain.

Consolidated Accounts

In millions of French Francs	1 H 96	1 H 95	Full year 1996
Sales	80,884	67,209	138,029
Cash flow	7,007	5,624	11,278
Operating income	4,958	3,472	7,441
Net income (Group share)	2,630	1,809	2,549
Net income (Group share) before non-recurring items	2,630	1,809	2,570
Earnings per share (FF)	11.0	7.8	15.8
Earnings per ADR (\$)	1.48	0.77	1.58

(1) before IFRS
(2) before non-recurring items
(3) average exchange rate for the period: 5 FF = 1 DM, 5.00 FF = 1 US\$ (1995/96)

and relatively weak, albeit above the levels seen in the same period last year.

Main external factors	1 H 96	1 H 95	Operating income impact (FF)
Dollar / Franc	5.10	5.04	0.6
Brent (\$/barrel)	18.04	17.49	+0.4
NW Europe (\$/t) refining margin	12.2	9.0	+0.5

□ Downstream improvement but profitability continues to be affected by weak refining margins

Operating income for the downstream segment increased by 65 per cent relative to the 1995 first half due to higher refining margins in Europe and efforts to reduce the refineries break-even point. In marketing, gains from cost reduction and from an increase in petroleum product sales were offset by the negative impact of a retail price war in the United Kingdom.

□ Chemicals start benefiting from external growth

TOTAL's Chemical sales increased by 14.9 per cent to FF 12.5 billion in the 1996 first half primarily due to external growth at Hutchinson and the paints division. Operating income for the Chemical sector rose to FF 984 million, an increase of 8 per cent versus the 1995 first half. The smaller percentage increase in operating income as compared to the rise in sales is due to the mediocre economic environment in Europe, notably in the building industry. Ongoing programs should allow the Chemical sector to increase its profitability by deriving the full benefit of recent acquisitions.

in the 1996 first half.

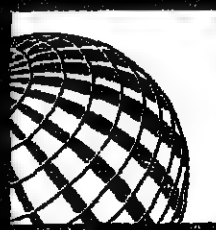
Consolidated equity rose to FF 57.8 billion at June 30, 1996. Net-debt-to-equity ratio is unchanged from December 31, 1995, at 18 per cent. The TSDIRs issued in 1990 have been reimbursed entirely.

TOTAL's long-term debt rating was raised from A1 to Aa3 by Moody's and maintained at AA- by Standard & Pears.

For the medium term, production growth as well as productivity gains in each sector should allow continued improvement in the Group's profitability.

Continental Airlines

See your travel agent or call Continental on 0800 776464.



STOCK MARKET

OLIVER AUGUST

Farnborough take-off for defence and aerospace

EVENTS at this week's Farnborough air show have given the defence and aerospace sector yet more lift-off. After Monday's order bonanza, Rolls-Royce shares were yesterday boosted from 233.5p to 230p by an American order for 25 executive jets powered by engines made at its Allison subsidiary.

CRN jumped to £10.63, up 10p, as hopes rise at the vehicle company for a defence order from Qatar. Vickers found shares unchanged at 371.5p ahead of interim results today. Smiths Industries also got an orders boost on the Hampshire airfield moving up 8p to 772.5p.

Other defence company shares enjoyed an equally good run. British Aerospace breached the £10 mark, ending at £10.00 1/2 up 3 1/2p. Cobham moved up 1 1/2p to 633p and Hunting stayed at 112 1/2p.

But manufacturers and analysts at Farnborough have also quietly voiced concern about the potential impact of renewed western military activity in the Gulf. Defence, as well as aerospace, orders could suffer if there is a backlash against the intervention in Iraq, possibly fuelled by headline Muslim factions inside cash-rich administrations keen to buy western technology.

Defence sales boomed following the Gulf War in 1991. Shorts, for example, sold missile systems to the Kuwaitis, who wanted to strengthen their own defences against further attacks from their neighbours. Sales of private and executive jets have also been growing as a result of increased business travel to the Gulf. All this could be in jeopardy if the present conflict escalates.

But the fall-out from the US-led attack does not always have to be negative. Shell shares rose 15p to 959p because oil production in the Gulf may be disturbed and Iraq's access to the world oil markets seems to be poised.

British Airways rose 9p to 52 1/2p after upbeat August passenger figures. The good news was augmented by reports that USAir is prepared to settle its lawsuit against BA and support the tie-up with American Airlines.

Elsewhere in the transport sector, Railtrack gained 4 1/2p



The MRTT in which British Aerospace has a stake. BAE shares rose, along with others in the industry

at 249 1/2p. BAA shifted 2 1/2p up to 476 1/2p and Stagecoach went up 1p to 521 1/2p.

Another supermarket price war may be in the offing and dealers are bracing themselves for yoyo movements in the sector. Asda fell from 110 1/2p to 109p. The group is also embroiled in a row over the boardroom changes ahead of the departure of Patrick

Gillam, its chairman, who will be replaced by Archie Norman, chief executive.

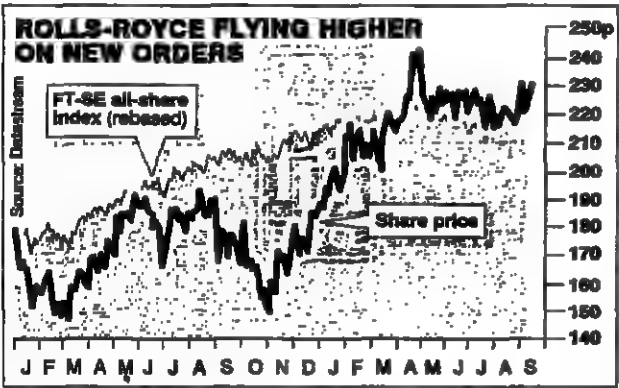
Kwik Save was down 7p to 365p, Sainsbury lost 9 1/2p to 323p, and Marks & Spencer fell 3 1/2p to 88 1/2p.

In the construction sector RMC ended at £11.08, up 18p, and Redland was up 10p to

448 1/2p. Analysts were again upgrading prospects for a full recovery in Germany after contradictory survey results.

Markets have digested the news that United News & Media intends to run a seven-day operation at the Daily and Sunday Express. Shares went down 6 1/2p to 698 1/2p. The management of the newly-created group is confident that

efficiency savings can be achieved without damaging editorial quality. Industry insiders have warned that previous experiments with seven-day operations failed during the 1980s. Lord Hollick, who arrived at the Express titles through the merger, is believed to be looking to the US where seven-day operations are the norm.



ROLLS-ROYCE FLYING HIGHER ON NEW ORDERS

Shares in IMI plummeted on Tuesday despite reasonable results. It may not have been surprising, therefore, when the company's directors announced yesterday they were spending £8.7 million on Obej, a company that produces customised bar pumps. The shares bounced back to 391 1/2p from 379 1/2p.

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Alleged plans by the Labour Party for a reform of the broadcasting tax system have sent television company shares down. HTV closed 9p lower at 333 1/2p. Scottish TV was down 6p at 596 1/2p and BSkyB finished at 570p down 1 1/2p.

Disappointing advertising revenue figures and indications that the bid by Granada may be postponed brought Yorkshire-Tyne Tees TV down 32 1/2p to £11.77 1/2.

A rally in the regional electricity sector lit up the share prices of the recently privatised companies. East Midlands Electricity rose 1 1/2p to 572p. Yorkshire Electricity gained 1 1/2p to 759p. Scottish Power went from 305p to 307 1/2p and Southern Electric was up 2 1/2p to 668p.

Business support services will have envied Restekill which rose 4 1/2p to 412 1/2p following a recommendation by Merrill Lynch. The FTSE 100 Group moved up 1p to 622 1/2p.

The drugs sector saw two interesting movers. SmithKline Beecham closed at 747 1/2p, up 6p, following Lehman Brothers' positive review and Cortes International went to 305p, up 3 1/2p, on the successful trial of an oral vaccine for diabetes.

Troacero went down 2 1/2p to 72 1/2p as dealers were still feeling blue from recent interims. Hotel shares rallied and boosted Granada to 854 1/2p up 3 1/2p and Ladbrooke to 209 1/2p up 2p.

GILT-EDGED: Gilt dealers were looking towards the morning's announcement on the talks between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England. Their meeting lasted only 35 minutes and the City feeling is that interest changes are unlikely.

Should rates be cut regardless of the thriving economy gilts are expected to react badly. Any such move would be seen as politically-motivated and could ultimately lead to rising inflation.

The September long gilt futures closed at 110 1/4p, the focus will switch to the December contract on Thursday.

NEW YORK: On Wall Street investors held back for key employment figures while oil shares gave up some of their previous gains. By midday the Dow Jones Industrial average was down 4.07 points at 5,644.32.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 5644.32 (-4.07) S&P Composite 654.22 (-0.50)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 2001.87 (+3.73)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 1106.95 (+19.77)

Amsterdam: AEX 554.16 (+3.18)

Sydney: ASX 2258.5 (+13.5)

Frankfurt: DAX 2532.39 (+21.43)

Singapore: Straits 2094.48 (+10.78)

Brussels: C20 9708.32 (+56.58)

Paris: CAC 40 1984.77 (+13.30)

Zurich: SMI 762.80 (+2.18)

London: FT 100 2960.0 (+4.3) FT 250 2960.0 (+4.3)

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TEMPUS

Carried out with cash

BOOKERS agreed offer for Nurdin & Peacock took the stock market by surprise, but with the benefit of hindsight both the deal and the timing look obvious. N&P's cash and carry wholesale business has been suffering, not least because of the decline in the number of small retailers, squeezed out by the relentless advance of the supermarkets.

The parlous state of N&P was on full view in yesterday's interim results, which show pre-tax profits halving to £7.27 million. Nevertheless, Booker is happy to pay a hefty premium for the company, boasting £20 million in cost savings within two years. Booker has certainly done better than N&P in tapping the growing independent restaurant market, which is taking up sales lost because of the attrition among small shopkeepers.

There is no doubt that good money can be

made in declining markets but only by achieving a dominant position. In that sense Booker had no choice but to buy N&P. And its timing is excellent, the latter having begun to invest heavily in information technology, a cost which affected the half-year profits.

Yet Booker is left with two potential threats: SHV, the Dutch owner of the rival Makro chain holds a 14 per cent stake in N&P and could spoil the party, although it has failed to show any interest so far. More problematic is the Office of Fair Trading, which might block at allowing Booker 38 per cent of the UK's cash and carry business. Booker will argue that N&P was too weak to be a viable competitor anyway but small shopkeepers will complain loudly about any further squeeze on their business. The political tide is beginning to turn against the supermarkets.

CRH

THE reputation of BTR as a lean and mean machine took a bit of a blow yesterday with the revelation that Ticon's US management apparently had the use of five aircraft, including two helicopters. Unfortunately, CRH, a leaner and meaner company that has agreed to buy Ticon, manages to survey its worldwide empire without private planes and the fleet is to go.

That should save CRH about £1 million per year, a useful sum but not of great significance given a total value for Ticon, including its debt, of £329 million. The price being paid by the Irish company looks cheap when compared with the sale by BTR of the UK Ticon operations to Minorco.

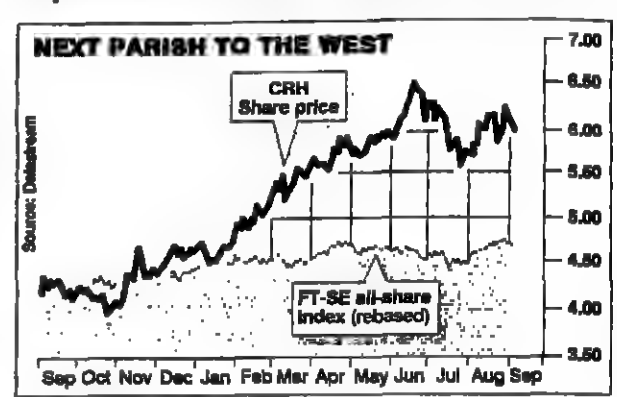
The latter paid the equivalent of 1.3 times sales for the

UK aggregates businesses

whereas CRH is getting the New England quarries and concrete plants for only 90 per cent of the annual turnover. However, that comparison is not entirely fair. Aggregates is a local business - the product is expensive to transport - and local availability determines both the price of the assets and the

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CRH Share price

flow. BBA's chief executive has a reputation for stripping the cash out of manufacturing businesses and last year the company set itself the target of squeezing working capital by 10 per cent. The net result has been a big shrinkage in stocks, with net operating cash flow rising from £19 million to £90 million.

Having proved that BBA does not need a deal and with net cash in the bank, the company is in a better position to add to its collection of disparate businesses. Indeed, these make no more sense together than apart - BBA's transportation division groups automotive components with an airport services provider. However, if BBA continues to make its businesses sing sweetly, no one should complain.

So far the score is even, with 7-Up's modest growth reversing recent declines, while Dr Pepper enjoys above market growth in the US and made a promising start in the UK. Cadbury is good at selling junk food, as it points out, even small gains in the huge US market translate into big profits.

Confectionery is having a gentler ride and Cadbury should soon show results from Eastern Europe and China investments. The sale of Coca-Cola Schweppes Beverages, releases funds for acquisitions. With profits growing in mature western markets, life should remain sweet for shareholders.

Edited by CARL MORTISHED

BBA

BBA has confounded its critics. Having tilted at Lucas and quietly retreated, the management was feeling bruised by suggestions that BBA is just another conglomerate needing a deal to propel it forward.

Yet in the first half, BBA showed plenty of evidence of auto-propulsion. Profits from continuing businesses were well ahead, despite the severe downturn in Germany which reduced friction product sales by 5 per cent. Margins improved, but more promising is the indication that BBA's top line is growing. Sales were up almost a quarter from a year ago, but even after excluding acquisitions and the boost from Fibervel, the non-woven textile business acquired a year ago, turnover was up 5 per cent after discounting the effect of the slump in Germany.

No less impressive, but probably less surprising, was the improvement in cash

flow. BBA's chief executive has a reputation for stripping the cash out of manufacturing businesses and last year the company set itself the target of squeezing working capital by 10 per cent. The net result has been a big shrinkage in stocks, with net operating cash flow rising from £19 million to £90 million.

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THE
TIMESCITY
DIARYVase-dropping
at Waterford

WATERFORD Wedgwood could soon be waving goodbye to its logo, the blue and white Portland vase. In a desperate effort to double the size and treble the profits of the crystal and ceramics business, design consultants have been called in to "modernise" the historical trademark that started out as an Alexandrian case-glass vase which Josiah Wedgwood acquired in 1785 after the death of the Duchess of Portland. Brian Patterson, chief executive, said: "We are still wrestling with whether to or not. You do it at your peril, it might only confuse people."

Lutine echoes

ANTHONY NELSON, Minister of State for the Department of Trade and Industry, was sounding off at the ringing of the Lutine Bell yesterday in celebration of Lloyd's £3.2 billion rescue plan. Nelson was not slow to tell David Rowland, Lloyd's chairman and chief bellringer, that the last person to ring the bell was John Major as Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1990. Major rang the bell twice, the traditional signal for good news to mark the Freedom of Financial Services. Rowland rang it three times, however, to mark the important stage in the insurance house's arduous journey. It shows that you have to be able to count, said Nelson, pointing out what happened to the last man to ring the bell.



"I still think he should have rung it once, for a disaster."

Irish ayes

JOHN BURK, Bristol & West's chief executive, was reminiscing at yesterday's results meeting about the takeover talks with the Bank of Ireland earlier this year. It was while booking his Irish cohorts into the Hilton at Heathrow that Burk realised what the two finance houses have in common. Burk's team included Ian Kennedy, group operations director, Kevin Flanagan, group services director and Jeff Warren, deputy chief executive, who all have Irish passports.

Airbus homes in

AIRBUS is poised to launch its first commercial for what must be the most expensive item ever to be advertised on television — an Airbus A340, at £73 million. Even though the European plane consortium has nothing to sell the individual passenger, Airbus is spending £15 million on the advertising campaign. Bob Alizart, Airbus vice-president, said: "Our main target is the airlines, but we want to advertise to the customers of our customers, and that means everyone."

WETHERSPOON, the brewery and restaurant group, delayed its results meeting yesterday after continual interruption from a British Rail safety announcement. But when the company decided to hold its meeting upstairs in Hamilton Hall, the Liverpool Street Station pub, Tim Martin, chief executive, was drowned out by the sound of pints being pulled.

ECONOMIC VIEW



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Why France looks like a better bet than Germany

Galic growth prospects are good although the economy is in need of a cheaper franc

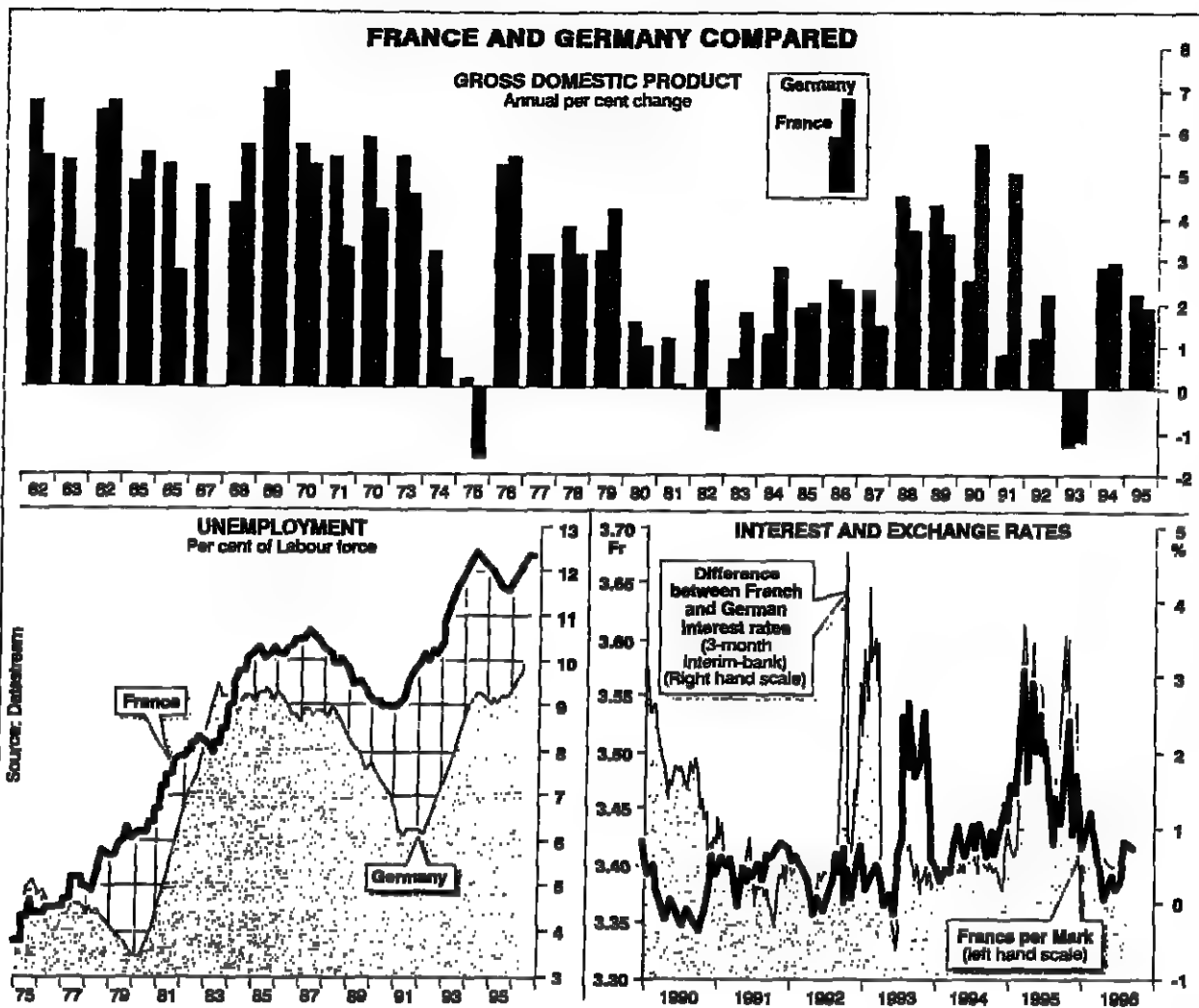
Yesterday the French Government formally revealed that its country's gross domestic product had fallen 0.4 per cent in the second quarter and revised downwards its estimate of growth in the quarter before. This morning the German Government will boast of a sharp rebound in its economy, reporting growth in the second quarter of 1 per cent or more.

These two announcements seem to epitomise the contrast between the sad state of France and the happier fortunes of its big next-door neighbour. That, certainly, is the way investors are reading the economic runes. After yesterday's GDP figures, the struggling French currency was back near the crisis level of Fr3.43 to the mark. And according to John Lomax, European equity strategist at Merrill Lynch, the firm's regular survey of European fund managers now shows a record preference for German shares over those in France.

The contrasting conditions in Germany and France are not just a matter for economists, businessmen and investors. Euro-sceptics in Britain, ever-hopeful that the Maastricht plan for monetary union might yet collapse under the weight of its own contradictions, also have good reasons to take a keen interest in the plight of France. For if there is one thing that could prevent Europe from plunging into a single currency, it would be a marked divergence in the economic needs of Germany and France.

But much as my heart goes out to the Euro-sceptics who want to see France punished beyond endurance for its fanatical commitment to Maastricht, my head tells me that this is probably a forlorn hope.

The idea that this week's GDP figures mark a major divergence between Germany and France is simply another example of the ludicrous short-sightedness that sometimes afflicts financial economists. While it is true that the two economies moved in opposite directions in the second quarter, both changes were largely statistical aberrations. The 0.4 per cent shrinkage of the French economy in second quarter was largely a payback for an exaggerated growth rate of 1.1 per cent reported the quarter before. In Germany this situation was exactly reversed: the growth of 1 per cent reported this morning is greatly exaggerated by a weather-related slump in the first quarter, when Germany reported a GDP decline of 0.4 per cent. Taking the two quarters together, growth in



both countries has been almost identical — and the same has been true of growth over the past four quarters, taken as a whole.

Recent indicators on industrial production, consumer spending, car sales and unemployment broadly confirm that the two economies are creeping along at roughly the same pace. It is only in the surveys of business confidence that we see a marked contrast between the two countries, with German industrialists becoming increasingly bullish, while the French pile on the gloom.

These surveys, however, have to be treated with scepticism. First, their forecasting record is not very impressive. Last summer, the German surveys showed similarly high levels of bullishness and were quickly followed by a slump. Secondly, there seems to be a lacuna in the Germans' understanding of the global economy which makes businessmen prone to overestimate the resilience of their companies to the damage from a strong currency — much as the Japanese did before 1991.

To judge by last month's sharp cut in interest rates, the Bundesbank may be starting to shake off this complacency. But, as America and Britain discovered in the 1980s and Japan is rediscovering now, the industrial damage done by an uncompetitive exchange rate can persist for many years, if not decades, after a central bank realises that its currency is too hard.

Making due allowances, therefore, for the Germans' inborn complacency (to say nothing of the querulousness of the French), there seems to be little to choose between economic conditions today in

Germany and France. But what of the future?

Looking further ahead, there are several reasons to expect that France will grow faster than Germany in the long-term future — as it usually did before the mid-1980s (see top chart).

First and foremost there is the simple fact that France is not burdened with anything like the same cost disadvantage as Germany. Average hourly labour costs, including social charges, holiday and sick pay, are 75 per cent higher in Germany than they are in America. In France labour costs are only about 10 per cent above the American level. (Britain's costs are roughly 15 per cent below America's, according to the Swedish Employers' Confederation survey on which these calculations are based.)

Compounding Germany's lack of competitiveness, there is the burden of the East. Reunification sharply reduced Germany's average productivity. But there was no commensurate reduction in labour costs because of the unions' insistence on rapidly equalising wages between East and West.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly in the long-run, France has a more advanced industrial structure than Germany. By this I mean that the proportion of output and employment derived from the service sector is much higher in France than it is in Germany. In France, services account for 70 per cent of total employment and value added, very similar to the level in America, Britain, Benelux,

Scandinavia and other advanced economies. In Germany, the corresponding figures are only about 60 per cent. The manufacturing sector, by contrast, accounts for 30 per cent of output in Germany, compared with only 20 per cent in France and other advanced countries. France, in other words, has already managed the transition from an industrial to a post-industrial economy. For Germany this wrenching process still lies ahead.

The only other major economy with an industrial structure similar to Germany's is Japan — and therein perhaps lies the secret of the persistent trade surpluses recorded by both these countries even when their labour costs and exchange rates have become apparently uncompetitive.

A large part of German and Japanese exports probably reflects the vast investments in manufacturing undertaken in the past and now treated by their owners largely as "sunk costs". Because capital is a much bigger element than labour in many industries processes, the German ascendancy in many export industries is bound to persist for years, and perhaps even decades, after the overvalued mark has made it unprofitable to site new factories in Germany — or to develop the new "knowledge-based" industries, which can generate high-quality employment and are less susceptible than manufacturing to Third World competition but have a high component of labour costs.

Comparisons of international costs have their biggest impact not on current production, but on marginal decisions about new investment.

This means that the full effects of shifts in exchange rates do not become apparent in trade statistics and economic growth rates for many years. The financial economists who point to German and Japanese trade surpluses as proof that the mark and the yen are not overvalued seem totally oblivious to this argument. But that is a subject for another column. For the moment let me return briefly to the outlook for France.

France, in contrast to Germany, does not need to pay for the reconstruction of an entire ex-Communist country or to rebuild an entire industrial structure. All it needs is a sensible monetary policy and a cheaper currency, geared to the interests of the French economy. One way or another I suspect the French will soon start to get this. The only question is how France will get the policy it needs: by persuading the Germans to co-operate with a growth-oriented monetary union, or by bringing the whole EMU project crashing down.

Insurers face shake-up if merger fails

Marianne Curphey on threats to the proposed Refuge/United Friendly deal

The proposed £1.4 billion merger of Refuge Assurance and United Friendly hangs in the balance. Big shareholders in both companies have voiced concerns about the deal, and threatened to vote against it at a joint EGM on Monday.

Such is the dispute over the terms that Refuge yesterday proposed to open and adjourn the EGM until September 26 to give shareholders time to consider the improved deal.

The focus of most of the discontent has been the ordinary branch inherited estate. Some institutional shareholders estimate that £400 million worth of this surplus belongs to Refuge shareholders, and claim that the terms of the proposed merger do not take this into account.

Since the two companies last month announced their intentions to merge, the deal has come in for stinging criticism, particularly from Refuge shareholders. Leading opposition is Perpetual, the fund manager. Neil Woodford, its senior investment manager, has said that he intends to vote against the deal, which would create a new insurer, United Assurance.

The Prudential, with 6 per cent of Refuge, and Britannic, the largest Refuge shareholder, with 10 per cent, both had reservations. However, the improved offer is believed to have won them round.

First Marathon (UK) Ltd, the British unit of the Canadian investment company, however, wants to go further than the compromise being offered.

There has been speculation in the City that Britannic may launch its own takeover bid for Refuge. Certainly, if the deal falls through, it will have to consider its own position in a fast-changing insurance market.

However, analysts believe that Britannic is unlikely to act until it has clarified the amount of surplus "orphan" assets in its life fund that can be redistributed to shareholders. This involves long discussions with the Department of Trade and Industry. A DTI decision can take up to 18 months.

The prospect of redistributions among life companies has pushed up their net asset

value. The City believes that until the DTI decides what proportion of Britannic's orphan assets belong to shareholders, it will be extremely hard to make any accurate assessment of the value of its shares, and thus the terms on which a merger or a takeover by Britannic could be decided.

Furthermore, hostile bids are rare in the insurance home service industry — to which Refuge, Britannic and United Friendly, belong. Some observers doubt the wisdom of Britannic acquiring a similar company, arguing that it would be wiser to try to buy a small building society and build up a banking arm.

If shareholders block the merger, United Friendly and Refuge will be vulnerable to hostile bids, having admitted not seeing long-term futures as independent companies. United Friendly would be a harder target. A large proportion of its voting shares are held by the founding families, who favour the merger.

Should the deal collapse, insurers big enough to swallow either company include Prudential, CIS (the Co-op insurance arm), the Pearl, and Britannic. Prudential has plenty of cash, but has already signalled that it intends to move away from home service and into banking.

CIS, still a mutual, would face problems convincing its members of the merits of demutualising, but the Pearl's interest in making an acquisition cannot be ruled out since it has the financial strength and has sorted out the issue of its orphan assets.

Of quoted smaller companies that might consider a merger, only London & Manchester seems a likely candidate. There are mutuels that might fit the culture of either Refuge or United Friendly, but demutualisation would delay any move by at least a year.

Meanwhile, Perpetual's Mr Woodford says the merger has been put together in haste and undervalues Refuge by almost £400 million. John Cudworth, Refuge chief executive, says that the deal has valued Refuge exactly right. He says that he has spent 18 months talking to the DTI about orphan assets and six months negotiating merger terms.

Accountancy's moment of truth

Today the last of the FT-SE 100 companies not to be audited by a "Big Six" firm will announce that it is shifting its audit work. Smiths Industries has been audited by Clark Whitehill since 1922. At its next annual meeting in November it will ask shareholders to approve Price Waterhouse as joint auditors for the coming year, and sole auditors from July next year.

The writing has long been on the wall for medium-sized accountancy. But today's news is the end of an era — the UK's middle market of audit firms will now have to focus on their own clearly-defined market of owner-managed businesses, growing companies and niche markets.

For Alan Thomson, finance director of Smiths Industries, the move was inevitable. "More than 50 per cent of our sales are now outside the UK and while Clark Whitehill is a very good firm indeed they couldn't handle the international work," he said. "As a result they were auditing less than 50 per cent of the company and it made sense for us to have one firm which could operate internationally, and handle work like the investigation processes for acquisitions overseas."

Clark Whitehill is phlegmatic about the change. Hugh Butterworth, the senior partner, said: "We always knew our big clients were at risk unless we became an international firm." But Clark Whitehill, like many other accountancy firms in the

Middle-sized firms are having to settle for less, says Robert Bruce



Thomson: "move was inevitable"

in the process lose its independence and identity, or it simply preferred to build a place in a much smaller market place. This latter strategy probably grew through osmosis as the reality of what used to be seen as a sustainable place in the big time dwindled away.

themselves. Their costs have grown hugely and all the costs of their liability problems are being passed on to clients. Finance directors squeeze audit fees. Auditors do less work. Finance directors see the audit as less important. The fees and the work spiral downwards.

Mr Thomson said: "We complain about the audit fees. The firms then cut the fees and so have to cut their services. Firms find it hard to look at all the things they did some years ago and so they just do what amounts to a balance-sheet audit." The result is that many companies now have to do some of that audit and control work themselves.

For the middle market of accountancy firms it is a moment of truth. On the most recent figures the largest firm in the middle market, Grant Thornton, had annual fees of £120 million. The most recent annual fees figure of the smallest of the Big Six, Deloitte & Touche, was £337 million. Now the middle-market firms are scrambling for business. Adrian Martin, managing partner of BDO Stoy Hayward, said: "Everyone will now have to focus on the real issues." But the firms, in the words of Mr Martin, "need to differentiate themselves".

In the past they tended to differentiate from the Big Six firms by emphasising closer partner contact, for example. Trying to convince the market they are different from each other will be harder.

This week's Primary Update is about literacy & numeracy. (It's packed with words and it costs you nought.)

Study a wealth of successful teaching techniques in our Primary Update pull-out, free in this week's TES. Then, read on. Because you won't find a better source for the latest news, views and politics of education than The TES each week.

New jobs as JCB expands in Wales

Up to 300 new jobs will be created at Wrexham, North Wales, with JCB Transmission's £38 million expansion at its axle and gearbox plant. The company's workforce will be doubled.

Joint venture

Sherwood International, the financial services software producer, has joined forces with Oracle Corporation to produce Amarta, its new pension software program. Sherwood's pre-tax profit was 15 per cent ahead at £705,000 in the half year to June 30. The dividend is 1.5p (1.25p), payable on October 28.

Stadium up

In the first results since its March flotation, Stadium, the electronics and plastics maker, reported pre-tax profits of £2.19 million (£2.11 million). Underlying sales were stagnant at £19.8 million. Stadium said that it remained confident of meeting its pre-tax profit forecast of £4.7 million for the full year. A maiden interim dividend of 1p will be paid on October 10. The shares lost 4p to 123½p.

Beattie better

James Beattie, the department stores group with nine outlets in the Midlands, lifted pre-tax profits to £1.6 million from £1.43 million in the half year to July 31 on higher sales of £41.7 million (£37.2 million). Earnings were 2.6p (1.8p) a share. The interim dividend is 1.75p a share, up from 1.6p.

Payout rises

Datrotech, the distributor of computer products, has increased the interim dividend 11 per cent to 2.1p a share after reporting a rise in profits to £3.7 million before tax from £2.9 million in the six months to June 30. Earnings were 7.2p a share, up from 6.1p last time.



Mark McQuater, left, managing director, Tim Martin, centre, and Richard Pennycook, finance director, are bullish about group trading prospects

CRH builds up with deal in New England

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

CRH, the Irish building materials group, yesterday became one of the largest players in the New England construction materials business with the £120.3 million purchase of Ticon from BTR, the British industrial group.

The purchase was CRH's biggest acquisition and came on the day it announced a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £168.9 million in the half year to the end of June.

Under the deal, CRH acquired all of Ticon's issued share capital for £135.8 million and assumed the company's net debt at the end of August 1995 of about £167.3 million, raising the total purchase cost to £120.3 million.

CRH hopes to raise £130.9 million from the disposal of assets as a result of a pre-merger order by the US Justice Department and the sale of two non-core businesses.

Ticon is one of the largest construction material groups in the northeast US, with 60 operations in nine states, including quarries, asphalt and ready-mixed concrete plants.

In 1995, it reported pre-tax profits of £171.2 million on sales of £1,227.8 million.

Don Godson, CRH chief executive, said the acquisition would provide significant opportunity

for cost-saving synergies with CRH's established operations in the region.

He added that the £101 million that CRH raised yesterday through the placing of 17.94 million shares would be used to finance more acquisitions this year. "We see further opportunities in Europe, the US and other developing regions," he said. "The placing will allow us to go after them."

CRH entered the US market in 1979 and now has operations in 40 states. When the Ticon businesses are fully integrated, CRH will be one of the leading construction material groups in the US. In the

half year to the end of June, CRH Irish operations reported a 32 per cent jump in trading profits to £122 million largely because of the buoyancy of the construction sector.

But continued weakness in the building sector in Britain and Northern Ireland, coupled with severe weather in the early part of the year, resulted in a decline in margins in that area.

Earnings per share rose 9 per cent to 13.95p. The interim dividend of 13.08p, up 12 per cent, is due to be paid on November 8.

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Bristol & West spends £4m so far on merger

BY ROBERT MILLER

BRISTOL & West Building Society has spent £4.1 million so far on its proposed merger with the Bank of Ireland. The costs of the agreed deal represent only the initial part of the transaction up to June 30. The takeover is due to be completed by spring of next year.

Unveiling a 23 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax profits to £45 million, Bristol & West said administrative expenses

had also risen in the first half to £45.4 million from £40.6 million. This was because of an extensive television advertising campaign and investment in computer system updates.

Bristol & West reported gross mortgage lending up 54 per cent to £696 million. Net lending of £261 was double last year's figure. The important cost-to-income ratio fell to 43.9 per cent (51.6 per cent).

NatWest staff to be balloted

NATWEST Staff Association is to ballot members of the bank's life and investment arm on industrial action after NatWest imposed tough sales targets on more than 1,000 people (Robert Miller writes).

The 40,000-strong staff union said 70 per cent of the salesforce were unlikely to achieve their 1997 targets and as a result could see their annual salaries fall by up to £4,000.

Strong & Fisher given lift by BSE cattle cull

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE BSE cattle cull has boosted profits at Strong & Fisher, the leather and sheepskin processing group. But the company remains concerned over the long-term future of the rendering industry because of safety doubts about many traditional products.

Profits for the six months to June 30 rose 73.5 per cent, to £1.98 million, on a reduced turnover of £50 million. Michael Teacher, chairman, said

that the initial BSE scare prompted a collapse in sales in its by-products division but that the government-sponsored cull has ensured that plants have been running at high capacity since early May. The company is aiming to move to the Alternative Investment Market before the end of the year. Shares closed unchanged at 13p, while the interim dividend was maintained at 0.2p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

UK disclosure rules help foreign rivals

FINANCIAL reporting requirements have been blamed for putting UK companies at a competitive disadvantage compared with other European companies. A survey by Deloitte & Touche, the business advisory firm, says the most significant cost of providing disclosure of information in the UK is publishing information that is useful to competitors.

The survey of European reporting practices indicates clearly, says the firm, "that the quality of disclosures required of UK companies is far higher than that of our European partners". The survey showed that there was no category of disclosure in which the UK fell behind Germany, for example. Martin Scicluna, Deloitte & Touche chairman, said: "We should encourage other countries to bring their standards of financial reporting up to our own level, rather than reverse the move towards full and clear disclosure which helps maintain London as Europe's leading financial centre."

Epic trims losses

EPIC Multimedia, the multimedia production company, yesterday reported reduced losses of £1.9 million for the year to May 31, compared with £2.5 million in 1995. The company said losses were well within expectations and resulted from writing off investment expenses in new titles as they occurred. Turnover increased by 43 per cent to £4.2 million. Shares in the company, which floated in May at 105p, closed up 1p yesterday at 91½p.

Manders to shed staff

MANDERS, the printing inks and coatings company, expects to take a restructuring charge of about £1 million in the second half and cut up to 100 jobs after seeing interim pre-tax profits slide from £5.5 million to £2.56 million. The company said trading conditions were depressed in the first half while competition intensified. Turnover dropped 4 per cent to £74 million, while earnings per share dropped from 4.07p to 3.04p. The interim dividend will be held at 3.1p.

Life Sciences splitting

LIFE SCIENCES INTERNATIONAL, the laboratory equipment maker chaired by Sir Christopher Bland, has split itself into four market groups: laboratory, clinical and industrial products, and biotechnology. Each is responsible for its own R&D, manufacturing and sales. The move came as the group reported pre-tax profits of £12.4 million, up 17 per cent, in the half year to June 30, on sales of £114.7 million, up 25 per cent. The interim dividend, paid on November 8, stays at 1.6p.

Brammer record rise

BRAMMER, the Altrincham engineering group aiming to become the first pan-European spare parts supplier, achieved record first-half results. Group sales were £103 million, 15 per cent ahead of last time. Increased margins helped pre-tax profits to grow 26 per cent to £12.8 million, helped by a £968,000 contribution from its Spanish acquisition, Rodamientos USA. Earnings were 18.5p per share (14.7p). An interim dividend of 5.25p (4.75p) will be paid on November 11.

Reuters in French deal

REUTERS, the financial information and trading group, yesterday purchased 75 per cent of Distal, a privately held French company that provides electronic healthcare information to doctors. The purchase price was not disclosed but was "not material" in the context of Reuters's net assets. Distal sells software which is used by some 6,000 French doctors to record information about patients. It has also developed a system allowing remote access to medical files in cases of emergency.

In pursuit of better auditing

Richard Bint on a booklet offering help in ensuring that a high level of quality is top of the agenda

This week sees the publication by the audit faculty of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales of the revised version of its booklet, *Towards Better Auditing* (TBA), first published three years ago. Those three years have been as eventful as any in the profession's history and corporate failures, litigation and the gathering of momentum of regulation have all ensured that the booklet's subject matter, quality, and how to ensure it is built into a firm's audit work is at the top of the profession's agenda.

Ensuring a uniformly high level of quality on every audit is difficult because it is a professional service performed by potentially fallible human beings. Furthermore, every audit is unique. The presumption underlying TBA is that just about the whole management and organisation of an audit has to be designed with achievement of this quality objective in mind and the booklet offers practical guidance relevant to firms of all sizes in this respect.

As the original booklet was based unashamedly on the best practice at the time of a range of leading firms it is not surprising that the updated

version reflects the preoccupations and concerns of firms of auditors over the past three years.

The revised booklet reflects the increasing attention paid by firms to developing the personal qualities required by an auditor. Many of the corporate failures of the past few years have reinforced the paramount importance of auditors maintaining an independent state of mind, remaining robust in the face of external pressure, and maintaining an attitude of professional scepticism and diligence in the execution of audit work at all times.

The booklet recognises the need to put in place procedures to prevent inadvertent acceptance of commercial risk without reward. One area where new internal procedures have been put in place is the requirement for "release letters" to be signed by third parties and their accountants before the audit firm will permit examination of its audit files for such purposes as pre-acquisition due diligence, and for partners and staff to follow laid-down procedures in respect of giving even oral representations to third parties.

A new chapter, Could There



Richard Bint says there is no room for complacency in auditing

Be A Fraud?, reflects the determination of the faculty and the auditing profession generally to play an active role in combating fraud. The main recommendation is essentially to "think fraud" — recognise that it is different from error, the other main enemy, in that the fraudster will attempt to deliberately mislead. Consider

the feasibility of fraud in each audit engagement by thinking of what material acts could be possible with each particular client.

Another area of concern to firms in recent years is client acceptance and retention. Most firms will have had clients which, in retrospect, they wish they had never

taken on. Such clients have often resulted in a bad debt, a damaged reputation, and possibly a lawsuit.

Recent years have seen firms carefully considering potential new clients and declining to accept some appointments. The booklet gives guidance on best practice in these areas. If the potential client is especially high-risk in terms of the nature of its business, particularly if it is in financial services, the directors have an unfortunate track record, or there is any reason to doubt their integrity, appointment will often be declined.

The decision to retain a client should be formally reconsidered on an annual basis. It may be relatively easy to decide whether to retain a multinational blue chip company as a client, but in cases where concerns have emerged over the integrity of directors, their attitude, or the open relationship required with auditors, as well as commercial concerns or other criteria set out in the booklet, it is not uncommon for the firm not to continue to act.

The aim is for "built-in quality". There is no room for complacency in auditing and firms of all sizes are constantly striving to improve. The faculty hopes that its updated booklet will be a useful part of that process.

The author was chairman of the working party updating *Towards Better Auditing* and is a partner in Pannell Kerr Forster

Hidden costs of dash to be truly global

ANY day now the partners of Andersen Worldwide will receive the papers detailing the plans for the future structure of the firm. These days it styles itself "the leading provider of professional business advisory services in the world, with over 89,000 people in more than 76 countries". And that can be as much of a problem as an advantage.

The trigger for Andersen's need for restructuring is rivalry between its constituent parts. But the real reasons are wider and affect everyone. The whole business advisory world has changed beyond all recognition. And the reason it has changed is simply one of technology. Keith Burgess, who heads up Andersen Consulting worldwide, has an endearing habit of insisting that his office is his briefcase. Head office is where he and his laptop are currently stationed.

This type of change of attitude is having an enormous effect on the way that business is carried out and on the quality of that business. If you are going to claim, as the Big Six accounting firms do, that you are a global firm then senior partners need to keep travelling to show their faces in far-off places. It is time-consuming and it is costly. As one senior Big Six man put it to me, "the travel costs of a senior partner are close to the gross domestic product of a small country".

Meanwhile, further down the ladder the operational partners and managers are bouncing round the world as well. Global firms integrate their disciplines. If you have a worldwide consulting practice you are just as likely to have to be in Houston as in Huddersfield or Hanou.

Theoretically, better communications should mean less travel. But this, like the paperless office, has turned out to be nonsense. Partly this is because of the macho nature of the work. Really effective work could be carried out quietly from a London office. But the noisy business of racketing round the world's airports gets you noticed. The client may not get a better job done. But the partner's career prospects will be soaring. A few weeks ago at a Big Six firm I heard one partner leaving a meeting with a cheery "see you next week". The reply from inside was "not unless you are in Islamabad you won't". The point was made. You may be in London next week but I am not. I'm off getting new business round the globe.

The other result of this chaotic way of

working has been the loss of offices as they were traditionally understood. When you visit a senior person at a Big Six firm these days you find that they aren't sure of the location of the room for the meeting. And when you do find it there will be cartons of files on the shelves, a flip chart by the window and a socket for the laptop. This is hot-desking, a process disguised by much jargon within the firms. It is disorientating for staff but stunningly efficient for the firm. In London, Coopers & Lybrand found they needed around 1,000 fewer desk spaces when they introduced the system. When it translates through to the bottom line it means one office block less.

But there is a hidden agenda here. As one manager said to me rather wistfully "there is nowhere to put the family pictures anymore". If he said that in public he would be accused of being a wimp. But it is important. Within the large firms quite ordinary staff work staggering hours, travel huge distances and spend very little time — and then in a state of exhaustion — with what makes up their other, private, life. This means that life is a never-ending round of impersonal projects, carried out in an unbelievably competitive environment while in a state of near physical exhaustion. Apart from very senior partners who would never let on, I do not know anyone on this circuit who is not intending to get out as soon as they can. They probably won't all do it. Too much of their personal identities will have become intertwined with the status of long hours and global responsibilities. But they will be doing a job that they do not want to do. And in the end that damages everyone involved.

So there is a flight from the life that the Big Six see as essential. People are thinking of retirement from 40 onwards. The lack of experience and the wisdom derived from experience that the big advisory firms have been so short of in recent years is going to dwindle further.

The real result of such events as Andersen's restructuring is a growing number of independent consultants, pockets of gathered wisdom, all recuperating and working to their own goals. Paradoxically the drive towards "truly" global business is shifting the real skills and expertise to people who are happier keeping their laptop at home.



ROBERT BRUCE

VAT victory for aviator

COOPERS & LYBRAND'S intrepid aviator partner, John Fisher, is now five days into his attempt to beat the record for flying a Tiger Moth from London to Sydney. Currently he should be somewhere over the Aegean Sea in spite of being struck by lightning earlier in the week. But he could have been struck by something even more drastic before he took

off. Customs and Excise threatened the whole enterprise. Fisher is an Australian and his plane arrived in a huge container of bits and was reassembled here. The VATmen decided that this meant that they could levy some £9,000 in tax that would have wiped out the money the flight is raising for cancer charities. Only deft work by Coopers V&A experts averted

disaster and allowed Fisher to vanish into the wide blue yonder.

Nice earner

MEANWHILE the Revenue has spotted a nice little earner if Ernst & Young's calculations are to be believed. Forget about VAT shortfalls. Self-assessment will bring in the goods. In the Revenue's pilot

trial of the new system more than 20 per cent of the volunteer taxpayers failed to meet the deadline. "If the same percentage of the whole population defaulted," says Ernst & Young partner Phil Davis, his fingers a blur over a calculator, "there will be £8 million returns outstanding on January 31, 1998." At £100 a throw that means £180 million of automatic penalties.

Back at work

IN SPITE of having retired from being technical director of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales in a flurry of farewell presents of cricket and cookery books last week Bruce Picking is back. The £100,000 salary on offer for his post has attracted no one the institute cares to appoint and Picking is filling the gap three days a week on fat consulting fees.

ROBERT BRUCE

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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■ FILM 1

Despite its cast of feisty women, the revenge thriller *Diabolique* is plain diabolical



■ FILM 2

Crazy lives, wildly filmed in frenetic Hong Kong: that's Wong Kar-wai's *Fallen Angels*

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ FILM 3

Back to the Berlin Wall: lovers divided in the staid but well-observed *The Promise*



■ FILM 4

Beaumarchais offers a diverting romp in pretty costumes through the life of Figaro's creator

How to murder a classic chiller

NEW FILMS: Was it necessary to remake *Les Diaboliques*? The result leaves Geoff Brown unconvinced

Crimson lips. Dangling cigarette. A hot red dress. And the face of Sharon Stone. Is this your typical maths teacher? Yet there she is in *Diabolique*, teaching boarding school boys the mysteries of algebra at a Gothic monastery in Pittsburgh. The film also invites us to believe that this self-assured dame would sit idly by while her secret lover, the school's headmaster (Chazz Palminteri), abused her. Since when was Sharon Stone a doorman?

These are only some of the ludicrous sights of *Diabolique*. Take Isabelle Adjani, the head's frail wife, mouth agape and eyes staring. She is supposed to look like a tremulous woman with a weak heart, murdering her brutish husband with Stone's help. But after a while she just looks like a fish.

Adjani's presence also serves as an embarrassing reminder of the film's distinguished French origins. For this is a remake of *Les Diaboliques*, Henri-Georges Clouzot's 1954 thriller. Until it spins off into a new ending, Jonathan Chechik's film follows the path of the original plot: the bathtub murder, the body dumped into a scum-covered pool, an investigator nosing around. But the tone and the achievement bear no comparison.

Clouzot relished the tale's sordid details, from the dismal school meals to the ornamental lion pressed on the chest to encourage drowning. Chechik, best-known for *Benji & Joon*, prefers the loud and obvious. Thunder cracks. Rain drives down. The images order us to bite our nails but their very insistence robs scenes of suspense.

Nor do the characterisations in Fred Rose's script help. Adjani's distraught wife appears even more marooned in Pittsburgh than Sharon Stone's sexy maths teacher. Palminteri's philandering headmaster stays one-dimensional. And Kathy Bates proves a mixed blessing as the investigator sniffing around the Gothic masonry. She may blend nicely with the scenery, but cracking tasteless jokes about breast cancer is not the best way to win audiences

round to a film that needs every friend it can get.

Now then. Fasten your seatbelt. You are about to see a film by Wong Kar-wai. His *Chungking Express*, a dizzying ride through lonely Hong Kong lives, was furious enough. But with *Fallen Angels*, the cult director has broken his own speed record and engineered such a rush of crazy, wide-angled or distorted images that you fear for your eyes. Hong Kong, in Wong's vision, is the ultimate city that never sleeps: its punks and hoodlums live on neon, fast food and motorbikes, enjoying no meaningful human contact.

In *Chungking Express*, the hip art-house hit of 1995, Wong's speed trip was truly intoxicating. *Fallen Angels* does not quite give the same rush. The narrative threads are cut into so many pieces that it takes more than one viewing to connect them up. And the mood is bleaker, the characters driven more by hysteria or pent-up violence.

Two storylines collide. One concerns a contract killer (Leon Lai) and the woman agent who harbours such a passion for him that she joyfully ransacks his garbage. The other strand follows a mute ex-con (Takeshi Tanaka) who opens stores after hours and frightens customers into buying their wares. The action revs up in a hand-held frenzy, or cranks down to a hypnotic blur. Rapid editing fractures the simplest shots while scenes lurch between moody melodrama, brazen farce and existential screams.

As a display of cinema technique, *Fallen Angels* is astonishing. Forget the dinosaurs of *Jurassic Park* or the tornadoes of *Twister*: they simply fortify Hollywood's obsession with surface realism. Here you can see cinema's language and boundaries being stretched. What you cannot see is a wide audience watching happily: by refining his art to the highest degree, Wong gives us much to gawp at, bedazzled, but not enough to feel for. But for those happy with the cinema of extremes, this could make their year.

Moving from *Fallen Angels*



Sharon Stone and Isabelle Adjani in Jonathan Chechik's *Diabolique*, a remake of Henri-Georges Clouzot's 1954 masterpiece *Les Diaboliques*

Diabolique
Warner West End, 18,
107 mins
Failed remake of *Les Diaboliques*

Fallen Angels
Renoir, 15, 95 mins
Cutting-edge cinema from Wong Kar-wai

The Promise
Curzon Phoenix, 15,
115 mins
Fossilised cinema from Margaretha von Trotta

Beaumarchais
Curzon West End, 15,
100 mins
Amusing French costume drama

Mulholland Falls
Virgin Haymarket, 18,
106 mins
Genre outifters will love it

Hollow Reed
Odeon Haymarket, 15,
104 mins
Uneven British drama about child abuse

Sophie (played at different ages by Corinna Harfouch and Meret Becker) escapes through the sewers from East Berlin. Konrad (August Zinner and Anian Zollner) trips on his shoelace and stays behind, a reluctant prop of the communist regime.

The divided lovers meet in Prague, 1968. But what is that rumble heard from their bed? The Russian tanks, of course: sometimes von Trotta's history lesson plays like a glib TV serial. The next time they meet, the Wall has collapsed. But have time and history extinguished their ardour? *The Promise*, made in 1994, is never quite as trite as this description may suggest. Von Trotta weighs her characters carefully and effectively captures the dampening of young fires by the compromises of middle age. The trouble starts when *The Promise* is placed next to an earlier work such as *The German Sisters*. That film had sharp edges, whereas *The Promise* is marked by the velvet touch, its emotions recollected in too much tranquillity to make much impact outside Germany.

Edouard Molinaro's *Beaumarchais* is more appealing, although compared to a costume piece such as *Cyrano de Bergerac*, this trot through the life of the author of *The Marriage of Figaro* seems eminently second-rate. There is Versailles to stare at, costumes galore and all the panoply of Parisian life in 1770. There is an engaging

performance from Fabrice Luchini as the witty dramatist-magistrate-philanderer-businessman-spy, a jack of all trades who earned the populace's affection with outspoken comments about individual freedom. But the film lacks a unifying style and an authorial voice, flitting from scene to scene in the hope that pageantry and ebullience will carry the day. It doesn't, quite.

Surface attractions also dominate *Mulholland Falls*, a thriller clearly shaped after *Chinatown* and a film that only gents' outfitters could love. The characters wear such wonderful 1950s suits in blue-grey or light chocolate. And who are these spiffy dressers? Hard nuts from the LAPD. They pulp people with black-jacks, they kick and curse but they always look a picture.

This is wrong. Instead of eyeing the costumes we should be quaking over Nick Nolte's quest to nail the murderers of Jennifer Connolly, a former girlfriend found harbouring a shard of radioactive glass. Writer Pete Dexter dishes out the hard-boiled quips but the plot lurches between the prosaic and the melodramatic, and many characters remain in sketch form. Melanie Griffith, Nolte's wife, languishes on a sofa. Chazz Palminteri, Nolte's partner, is trapped into sordid routines. And when we look at General Timms at his A-bomb test site, we only see John Malkovich parading his eccentricities.

Since the director is Lee Tamahori, the lack of oomph is all the more saddening. With *Once We Were Warriors* he made a New Zealand film forceful enough to grab Hollywood's arm. But the effort of accommodating himself to the American machine seems to have sapped his creative drive.

No fancy suits appear in *Hollow Reed*: this is an essay in British middle-class realism set in the world of Bath's Georgian houses, supermarket car parks and vegetables dished on a chopping board. Paula Milne's uneven script pitch-forks us into a child custody battle. Should little Oliver stay in leafy splendour with Jocely Richardson, whose new partner thracks him, or would his wellbeing improve with Martin Donovan, the father who has emerged from the closet and lives in a cramped flat with Ian Hart?

When the focus stays on Oliver himself, Angela Pope's film is often admirable. Fear, loneliness and pain shift across young Sam Bould's wary face, while Pope's plain but observant style stresses the anguish of his isolation. But when the focus shifts to Jason Flemmy's Frank, the child abuser, the film collapses. One minute he expresses crude homophobia, the next he pleads for tea and sympathy.

Although the cast make a good job of Milne's muddle, you end up wanting to do to

SNAP
VERDICT

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

DIABOLIQUE
Toby White, 22: Hollywood has no ideal film noir cannot be glamorised and the presence of Adjani doesn't give them the right to remake a French classic. Everything disappoints.
Nick Myers, 23: A run-of-the-mill thriller that neither runs nor thrills.
Ben Townsend, 21: Not a patch on the French original. Stone is very wooden and seems to be trying hard for pitiful results. Adjani just seems to sinner a lot. Don't waste your money.
Katherine Wright, 18: A film of such farce and melodrama made for an amusing entertainment. Stone and Adjani complemented each other admirably.

HOLLOW REED
Toby: Certainly watchable, if a little staid. Would serve better as a television drama.
Nick: This movie gives men a bad name.
Ben: Martin Donovan is convincing, as are all the leads. But the plot was a bit thin.
Katherine: The plot followed a well-worn path and was rather turgid in places. The cast gave adequate performances but failed to draw me in.

"VERY IMPRESSIVE"
"THE ACTING IS UNIFORMLY STRONG"

A HUBBARD BROTHERS FILM
DEAD PRESIDENTS

"Here, finally, black moviemakers express their rage and anxiety through artfully conceived stories with characters instead of archetypes, drama instead of message."

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DIRECTOR OF "LAST TANGO IN PARIS" AND "THE LAST EMPEROR"

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Ryan Gilbey - PREMIERE

"Relish the film's dynamic images... and the acute sense of life's joy and pain."
Geoff Brown - THE TIMES

"Liv Tyler, a star in the making, galvanises all comers with her mixture of innocence and sensuality."
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

"A joy to watch."
Geoff Andrew - TIME OUT

Stealing Beauty

SINEAD CUSACK JEREMY IRONS JEAN MARAIS MONICA MCKAY
D.W. MOFFETT STEFANIA SANDRELLI AND LIV TYLER

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A BERNARDO BERTOLUCCI FILM "STEALING BEAUTY" STYLING BY JAMES HARRIS
MUSIC BY GIANNI SILVESTRI COSTUME DESIGNER DARIUS KHONJUI EDITOR RICHARD HARRIS
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Toni Collette (Jan Cumming) Susan McGregor (Jeremy Northam)
Sireo Scacchi (Julie Stevenson) Billy Walker

Now showing at selected cinemas across the UK from September 13



CHOICE 1

A new version of Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* hits the road

VENUE: Currently at the Churchill, Bromley



CHOICE 2

Valery Gergiev brings Rotterdam's Philharmonic to Birmingham

VENUE: Tonight at Symphony Hall

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 3

Nichola McAuliffe tours in Peter Nichols's comedy, *Blue Murder*

VENUE: Now at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth



NEW VIDEOS

Barks as good as their bites: Disney's cartoon classic, *101 Dalmatians*, comes to the small screen

LONDON

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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Massey

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NEW ON VIDEO

ONE of the year's Christmas treats should be Disney's live-action revamp of its animated version of *Dodie Smith's* book about endangered puppies. But now the original film comes to video: endearing and funny, attractively styled, with one of the great Disney villains, Cruella de Vil, and a haunting set piece showing the workings of the canine SOS (the "twilight bark").

THE COCA-COLA KID (1995) THE wayward satirical tale of a Coca-Cola salesman in Australia, hoping to take over the local market. Diluted stuff by the past standards of its wandering director, Dusan Makavejev, but Greta Scacchi's man-eating character should buttonhole the attention that the leading man, Eric Roberts, often fritters away.

SWIMMING WITH SHARKS (1994) Imagine, 1994. JET-BLACK satire about Hollywood, with Kevin Spacey on top form as a monstrous studio executive who tears assistants to shreds. At first Frank Whaley's Guy is perfect shredding material: then the worm turns. George Clooney's debut features a sufferer from structural flaws and a plain visual style. But it bristles enjoyably with inside knowledge, and is so soaked about Hollywood that it makes Robert Altman's *The Player* seem like a love letter. Available to rent.

SMALL FACES (1995) AFTER tasting Hollywood, director Gillies MacKinnon returned to his native Glasgow for this richly rewarding account of teenage life in the late 1960s, written with his brother Billy. Brothers dominate the plot. The eldest runs with the local gang; the middle one dreams of art school; the youngest, 13, is just a kid, though in a gangland culture his pranks have serious consequences. MacKinnon's hard-driven visuals keep strict realism at bay; but there is plenty of emotional truth in the performances of young Scottish talents Iain Robertson, Joe McFadden and Kevin McKidd. Available to rent.

FLESH (1998) First Independent, 1998. ONE of the more cogent of the Warhol factory films, thanks to Paul Morrissey's direction, and a clear focus on the daily life of a male hustler, the personable Joe Dallesandro. Not that we see him in action: for all the displays of nudity, Morrissey's camera

shies away from the hard stuff to concentrate on talk about Greek statues, breasts, marriage and such. "I think the best marriages are when two people live apart." But they get married? "That's true." The companion film *Trash* (1970) is also available.

ORCHESTRAL (1996) Barry Millington. Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra/Gardiner. DG 447 751 2. The impulsive combination of John Eliot Gardiner and the Vienna Philharmonic came together a couple of years ago to produce a memorable symphonic *Merry Widow*. Now they turn to Chabrier for another, intelligently conceived, impeccably executed performance. What we have here is a

group of orchestral pieces from the 1870s and 1880s that show, with their poignant Gallic delicacy, why Chabrier was such a potent influence on younger composers such as Poulenc. But they also betray unmistakable signs of the Wagnerism that swept late 19th-century France (Chabrier himself left his government post to become a composer after a decisive performance of *Tristan*). The latter traits are seen most clearly in the overture to *Gwendoline*, the former in *Suite pastorale*, four orchestrated piano pieces that conjure up the Auvergne of Chabrier's childhood, the antique idiom of the French *clavichord* adding to the nostalgic colouring.

The succulent tones of the Vienna Philharmonic, combined with the rhythmic precision of Gardiner, capture all this superbly, and the ever-popular *Espana* and *Marche Francaise* (Jousserand *Marche*) also get the full treatment.

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
★★★ Worth buying

CHAMBER (1996) Hilary Finch. String Quartet. Sony SK 66 840. "OUR life be in it," wrote Janáček in 1928 in his beloved *Kamila Stösslová* about his second string quartet. These "Intimate Letters", with their musical representation of wonderfully diverse emotions coexisting and overlapping, is twinned here with the first quartet, the *Kreutzer Sonata*. This one, written in 1923, was inspired by Tolstoy's short story and is an evocation, a "musical psychograph" as this disc's accompanying notes have it, of a far less happy liaison.

The startlingly immediate recorded sound here is at one with the extrovert and dramatised quality of the Juilliard's performances, which will appeal to some listeners and be less attractive to others. It is ideally suited, though, to the temperament of

Berg's *Lyric Suite* which the philosopher Adorno called a "latent opera". This quartet's "programme" came to light as late as 1976 and revealed that its six movements chart Berg's secret and unhappy affair with Hanna Fuchs: they do so in cryptic letter-codes and motifs anagrams, tangling with its 12-tone musical alphabet from the opening *Allegretto giovinale* to the final *Allegro desolato*.

Max, the huntsman who has lost his aim, is sung with thrilling force by Endrik Wotrich. He sounds young and is not at all the normal heavy-weight usually assigned to this killing role. Clever casting. Matt Salminen is Kasper, the older man who invites him to sell his soul to the local devil. Samuel Elkhart Schall takes that part and together the two men portray a powerful line in evil.

Weber's women do not face such temptations. Luba Orgonova is a radiant Agathe with, as Max, a lighter voice

than the part normally commands. There is a slight tremolo, but this is a plus: Agathe spends most of the opera in a state of anxious foreboding. Christine Schäfer sparkles away as Annchen and Kurt Moll makes a telling late appearance as the Hermit who helps steady village life. A *Freischütz* worthy to stand alongside Carlos Kleiber's classic set on DG.

ORCHESTRAL (1996) Barry Millington. Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra/Gardiner. DG 447 751 2. The impulsive combination of John Eliot Gardiner and the Vienna Philharmonic came together a couple of years ago to produce a memorable symphonic *Merry Widow*. Now they turn to Chabrier for another, intelligently conceived, impeccably executed performance. What we have here is a

group of orchestral pieces from the 1870s and 1880s that show, with their poignant Gallic delicacy, why Chabrier was such a potent influence on younger composers such as Poulenc. But they also betray unmistakable signs of the Wagnerism that swept late 19th-century France (Chabrier himself left his government post to become a composer after a decisive performance of *Tristan*). The latter traits are seen most clearly in the overture to *Gwendoline*, the former in *Suite pastorale*, four orchestrated piano pieces that conjure up the Auvergne of Chabrier's childhood, the antique idiom of the French *clavichord* adding to the nostalgic colouring.

The succulent tones of the Vienna Philharmonic, combined with the rhythmic precision of Gardiner, capture all this superbly, and the ever-popular *Espana* and *Marche Francaise* (Jousserand *Marche*) also get the full treatment.

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
★★★ Worth buying

CHAMBER (1996) Hilary Finch. String Quartet. Sony SK 66 840. "OUR life be in it," wrote Janáček in 1928 in his beloved *Kamila Stösslová* about his second string quartet. These "Intimate Letters", with their musical representation of wonderfully diverse emotions coexisting and overlapping, is twinned here with the first quartet, the *Kreutzer Sonata*. This one, written in 1923, was inspired by Tolstoy's short story and is an evocation, a "musical psychograph" as this disc's accompanying notes have it, of a far less happy liaison.

The startlingly immediate recorded sound here is at one with the extrovert and dramatised quality of the Juilliard's performances, which will appeal to some listeners and be less attractive to others. It is ideally suited, though, to the temperament of

Berg's *Lyric Suite* which the philosopher Adorno called a "latent opera". This quartet's "programme" came to light as late as 1976 and revealed that its six movements chart Berg's secret and unhappy affair with Hanna Fuchs: they do so in cryptic letter-codes and motifs anagrams, tangling with its 12-tone musical alphabet from the opening *Allegretto giovinale* to the final *Allegro desolato*.

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Weber's women do not face such temptations. Luba Orgonova is a radiant Agathe

VISUAL ART

Stairway to heaven? Sir Anthony Caro's massive new *Goodwood Steps* is unveiled



MUSIC

Alfred Brendel delivers a magisterial account of Beethoven at the Albert Hall

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE

Fraud in the scientific world: the subject of a flawed but meaty new play by Stephen Poliakoff

TOMORROW

How will David Freeman treat *The Magic Flute*? Read Rodney Milnes's verdict on Opera Factory

Confident steps into pastoral perspective

Isabel Carlisle admires Sir Anthony Caro's monumental new work at Goodwood sculpture park

Sculpture at Goodwood opened to the public almost exactly two years ago as an open-air display of the best in contemporary British sculpture. Now, with its reputation established, it is launching its third year with a major work by Sir Anthony Caro made for the Goodwood setting. Boldly installed outside the entrance to Hat Hill Copse in West Sussex and visible from the road, *Goodwood Steps* is a huge confident piece. Venturing beyond the sculpture park's boundaries, it announces the confidence of those behind the venture of Sculpture at Goodwood and, more significantly, exudes a confidence that perhaps only an artist such as Caro could possess.

Funded by the collectors Wilfred and Jeanette Cass, Sculpture at Goodwood is unique among sculpture parks in combining works bought for the wooded downland setting with loans from dealers and sculpture "commissioned" directly from artists (with a grant to cover materials and basic costs). As pieces are sold, new works are installed and the display changes, maintaining its con-

temporary status. Financially, it is self-perpetuating. Artistically, there is always something new in the air.

Nothing about Sculpture at Goodwood is static except the works themselves. Works of sculpture in museums often look dead if unsympathetically lit. Out of doors, with enough space to give each a separate environment and the chance to view from all around and even from above, the works come alive in a surprisingly seductive way.

Elisabeth Frink's life-size bronze figures, based on the monumental Greek figures of warriors lifted from the seabed near Riace in southern Italy, stride down one of the grassy ridges with a sense of purpose and acute physicality that would be hard to achieve in an indoor setting. Andy Goldsworthy's *Herd of Aches* — freestanding, waist-high arches made of sandstone and slate — have their bases hidden in the undergrowth and are part-concealed among the

trees. A combination of nature and very natural art which sets up resonances of mystery, age and decay.

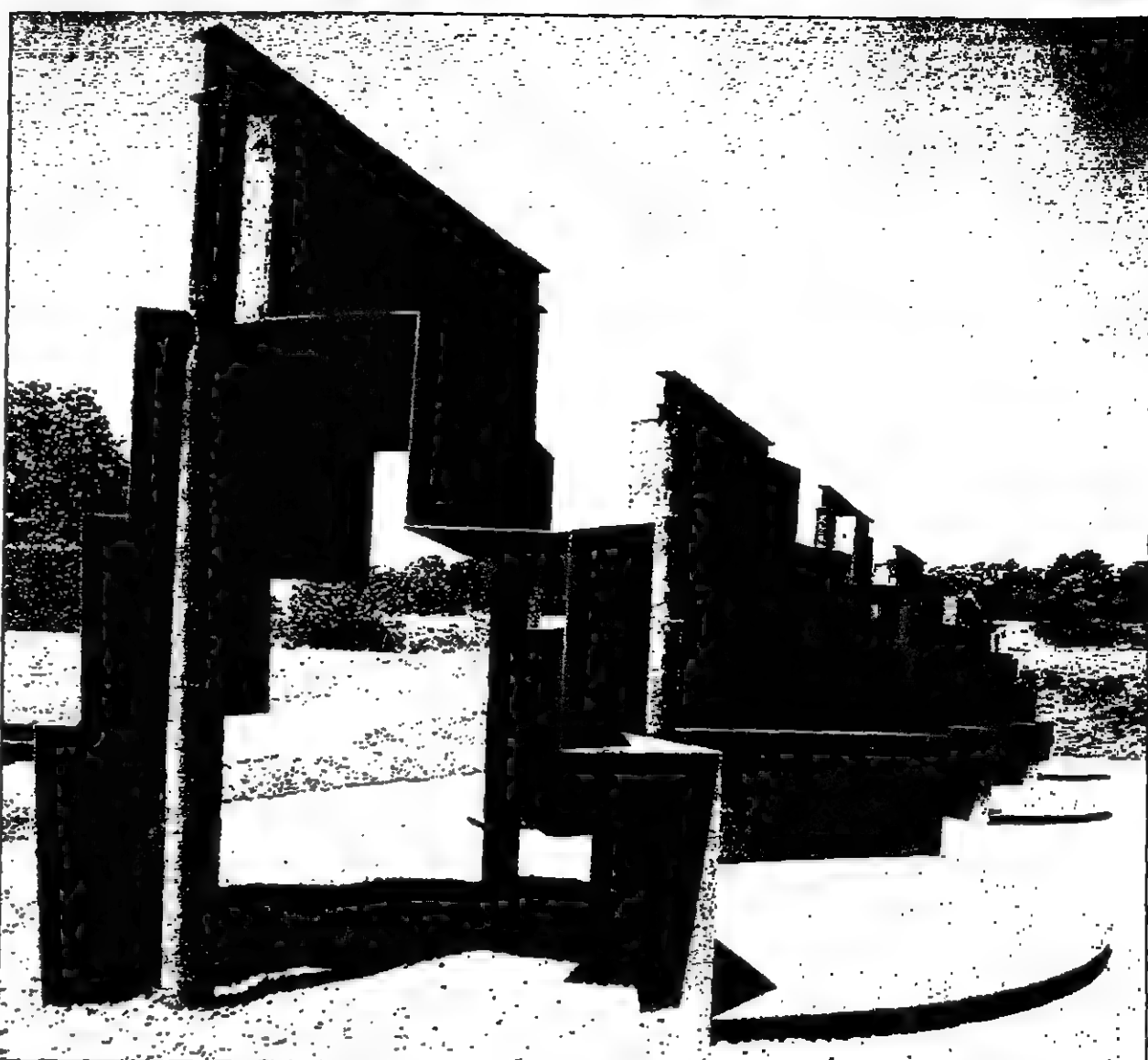
Caro's newest work is, as he himself sees it, a dialogue between the formality of architecture and the informality of the rounded contours of the chalk landscape. The 14 flights of giant steps (with four treads each with dimensions for mountaineers only) are paired both back-to-back and side-to-side. A central spine of 14 plain columns provides an axis, to either side of which the flights are angled first to right and then left. The angles of attraction and repulsion are constant. At the top, seven metres up, the columns are joined in pairs by horizontal lintels. The base of each flight is connected to the next by a semicircular sweep of metal.

This huge construction of welded and painted metal is an essay in dislocated Classicism. The seven huge doorways are blocked by steps where space should be in-

stead the spaces are between the flights, and the flights themselves, that look so solid from face on, are disconcertingly void behind. There is a sense of the perfect incompleteness that one finds in classical ruins.

Like Caro's earlier *The Tower of Discovery*, which was in place at Goodwood when the park first opened, *Goodwood Steps* invites you to walk round it and through it, to view it from the bank above and even to climb up the huge steps and sit on the top. For all its monumentality, it is inviting, not overbearing. The effect of the warm reddish-brown colour in which the work is painted set against the yellow of cut corn in the field behind, the green of the bank and the trees, the blue of sky, could not be replicated in a gallery. *Goodwood Steps* makes the point that works of art are heightened where they interact with their surroundings and that sculpture can be magically transformed in an outdoor setting.

● Sculpture at Goodwood, Hat Hill Sculpture Foundation, Goodwood, West Sussex (PO24 3BA). Opening times: by appointment, March to November, Thurs, Fri and Sat, 10.30am to 4.30pm



Step right in: Goodwood Steps by Sir Anthony Caro — "for all its monumentality, it is inviting, not overbearing"

Benedict Nightingale on Stephen Poliakoff's play about scientific fraud

Remember cold fusion? Two Utah physicists announced they had achieved it, only to lapse into embarrassed silence when scientists around the world failed to repeat their experiment. At the centre of Stephen Poliakoff's new play there is a similar gaffe and, since fraud is involved, the prospect of a worse scandal. This time a chemist at a provincial English university claims to have created a "sun-battery", meaning a machine that uses light to extract power from water, and proves to have been about as successful as the Lappin scientists Gulliver sees trying to turn ice into gunpowder. A good, original subject but, as it turns out, an awkward one. The first half of *Blinded by the Sun* is straightforwardly gripping, the second still absorbing but at times so disorientating that I wondered whether Poliakoff was writing in metaphor or code. Did what someone calls "the hell of creativity" and "the dark tunnel" refer as much to literature, drama and the playwright's own problems as to scientific discovery? More of this in a mo.

When Duncan Bell's smooth, sure Christopher tells Douglas Hodge's Al that he has found an easy way of separating the H from H₂O, Al is thrilled. After all, he has been unexpectedly appointed department chairman, feels insecure, and stands to gain both professionally and personally from the reflected glory. Then Al's doubts begin. Why won't Christopher publish his findings before holding a press conference? Has he been using bleach and baking powder to fake his results? Throughout the act, Hodge gives a wonderful performance as a rumpled nerd with a hint of firmness behind the goofy, apologetic grin.

In a programme note the chemist David Jones argues that "there is always some surprising or desperate hu-



Frances de la Tour as Elinor, Indra Ové as Joanna and Douglas Hodge playing Al

Hoax sets off a chain reaction

Blinded by the Sun
Cottesloe

man story behind scientific fraud". If so, Poliakoff does not fully show it. We never see why Christopher has acted in so insanely self-destructive a way, nor do we learn how Al has successfully limited the damage. Instead the play

takes odd twists, transforming Al from hack boffin into potential genius and from principled hero into hate-object. He stalks about in brightly coloured ties rationalising departments, firing unproductive colleagues, becoming a pop-science writer and slick broadcaster, and very nearly discovering how to extract fuel from garbage.

Even the excellent Hodge did not leave me feeling that the character held together or rid me of the suspicion that his

author was demonising him. But maybe Poliakoff had matters other than science on his mind. Think of Christopher, faking the inspiration he does not have, and Al, haunted by his inability to prove himself more than mediocre, as novelists or dramatists.

Think of the play's other main character — Elinor, a once-famous chemist secretly working on what may be scientific wonders and may be nothing at all — as a troubled writer too. The play becomes a debate about pure science, applied science — and the mysteries of art.

With Frances de la Tour dryly majestic as Elinor, nice cameos from Graham Crowden and Walter Sparrow, and quickly Poliakoffian scenes in a virtual-reality arcade and a university cafeteria, it seems grudging to call the play only a mixed success. But that's the truth. Poliakoff the brilliant but uneven word-scientist has yet to create his masterpiece.

Regal perfection

BBC PROMS

CBSO/Rattle
Albert Hall/Radio 3

YOU might think that Alfred Brendel, at 65, has long since said all he had to say about Beethoven's *Emperor Concerto*. But the manner of his saying it is continually rewarding. His Prom performance with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Sir Simon Rattle was both properly magisterial in spirit and abundantly stimulating in detail.

His exordium to the first movement had weight and clarity and thereafter it surged forward with a breadth of scale, imperative,

but always mindful that its brilliance is rooted in the musical content. Rattle preceded this with a carefully poised account of the Berlioz overture, *The Corsair*.

In the second part of the programme he boldly contrasted two more works. One was Sir Michael Tippett's *Fantasia Concertante on a Theme of Corelli*. The conductor gave rhythmic bite to the phrases as well as shaping the sensuous beauty of Tippett's tendrils of florid counterpoint. The ornamental writing in the high register became melodies to be savoured as the *Fantasia*'s

three layers bonded into an enchanting texture. Haydn today is usually treated as a programme-opener, but this concert restored him to a final place, with an account of his *Symphony No 88* that could scarcely be bettered. The performance was deliciously light-footed, making the most of the rich writing for woodwind amid reduced strings, but with the added trumpets from the surviving later edition of the score.

NOEL GOODWIN

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Jeanette Winterson admires the passion and wide-ranging mind of a woman who was a very modern Victorian

An imagination ahead of her time



Julia Stephen and daughter Virginia, 1894

Do you think it possible to write a life of anyone? I doubt it."

In 1935 Virginia Woolf was struggling with her biography of her friend, the art critic Roger Fry. In 1928 she had published a fiction she called a biography: *Orlando*, a 300-year-long tribute and tease to her lover Vita Sackville-West, which pretended to map the fortunes of the Lord/Lady Orlando, poet and seducer of vampire longevity and flexible sex.

Then there was her biography of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's spaniel, *Flush*, otherwise known to Woolf as "that abominable dog". *The Waves* (1931), she described as "autobiography", adding confusingly that although it was about childhood, "it must not be my childhood".

What a childhood that was, at 22 Hyde Park Gate her father, Sir Leslie Stephen, tyrannical, sentimental: her mother, Julia Stephen, beautiful, reined-in, dying of exhaustion when Virginia was 13.

Sir Leslie was a great growler; groaning over loss, groaning over his labour, the huge weight

of his life's work, the *Dictionary of National Biography*, pressing down on his children's heads. No wonder Woolf the writer was so suspicious of too much fact.

There were the summers at St Ives, stretched-out days of pale morning sea, the sky late-blue. Days before death, her mother's, her father's, her brother Thoby, and all the wasted deaths of the First World War.

Woolf is Modern. She feels close to us. With Joyce and Eliot she has shaped a literary century. Absurd that this bold, clear voice was born in 1882, before electric light and motor cars. Absurd that an experimenter still ahead of most contemporary fiction was 19 the year that Queen Victoria died.

This is a time-paradox. Woolf's work and her thinking were continually pulling ahead. Her body and her everyday life kept pace with her own day and age.

It cannot be otherwise. This explains many of the alleged contradictions in Woolf's behaviour: that she was a socialist but she was a snob, that she was a feminist but had poor women to cook and scrub for her, that she

was casually anti-Semitic but married a Jew, that she could be racist but hated oppression.

Hermione Lee does not try to whitewash Woolf, but she does not, I think, sufficiently emphasise the difference in attitudes between Woolf's own time and ours. Our ideas of society

VIRGINIA WOOLF

By Hermione Lee
Charno & Windus, £20
ISBN 0 7011 0507 3

have changed a great deal and Woolf and her circle were partly responsible for that change.

Woolf herself was often aware of the body, the physical self, as an anachronism dropped in time, while the real self, the mind, the imagination, was further ahead, a long way off, sometimes sighted like "a fin passing far out".

For such a person life and work, body and mind, do not slide easily together. The plates grind. She often felt crushed by the insistent world of action and timetables, seeking in her work

different focus, a different rhythm to the clatter of boots and busyness. When she wondered if the only way to write a biography were not simply to set down the known facts and then write the life as a fiction, she was trying to avoid penning-in the imagination with thick detail.

"I meet somebody who says you're this, you're that and I don't want to be anybody when I'm writing."

But, you may say, Virginia Woolf was mad.

She had five mental breakdowns during her lifetime. In 1941, when Hitler was expected to invade England and she was in deep turmoil about her own work, she wrote two sane and unselfish letters, one to her husband Leonard, the other to her sister Vanessa Bell, and she drowned herself in the River Ouse, near her cottage at Rodmell, Sussex.

Hermione Lee takes the view that Woolf was a sane woman with an illness. Her chapter on Woolf's doctors, diagnoses, treatments and drugs, not only exposes the medical model of the early century as terrifying cant,

but suggests how the treatments themselves may have been responsible for much of Woolf's suffering. I can only praise Lee for determinedly investigating the mumbo-jumbo that has often been set in the way of an open-minded reading of Woolf's work.

It is the work that matters. Woolf chipped away at the rock-face of convention and tradition, using her mind as a chisel. I wish Hermione Lee had written more passionately and precisely about the books themselves. Her commentaries are sensible but not inspired. Where she does try an original thought, running together Woolf's Angel in the House, the phantom who must be killed before a woman dares write freely, with Woolf's mother, the straining is audible.

Nevertheless, this biography should be admired for its scrupulousness, its seriousness, its effort and its honesty. It is a great improvement on Quentin Bell's rather homespun version (1972), and its scholarship is such that it will be invaluable to anyone interested in riddling the connections between a life and its work.

Sinister Welsh sprites

THE POET William Blake invited us to see heaven in a wild flower. The novelist Alice Thomas Ellis shows us hell there, too. Her devil's name is Nature, and she knows that not all the leaves in his book are green and golden.

Fairy Tale is her 13th novel, and an uncommonly odd one. To get some instant taste of its flavour you could do worse than imagine the principal characters of *Absolutely Fabulous* transported to darkest rural Wales, with the prissy daughter made pregnant by occult forces. Ellis's women have more depth than their counterparts on the box, but psychological realism is not what she is after.

Eloise, the daughter figure, has gone to live the simple life in a cottage called Ty Coch, in company with her partner Simon and a cat. Simon cares mostly that eyes are watching her from the woods — the Tylwyth Teg, that particularly nasty Welsh variety of the fairy folk, who soon come visiting in the shape of estate agents who wear shining shoes but cast no shadows.

Alarmed, Simon summons Clare, Eloise's mother, from London, but Clare doesn't get on with her daughter and sends her best friend Miriam. It is Miriam who discovers that Ty Coch stands on an

Robert Nye

FAIRY TALE

By Alice Thomas Ellis
Viking, £10
ISBN 0 670 85036 5

ancient sacrificial site, and she also notices that Eloise comes home bone dry after her impregnation by the powers of darkness in a rainstorm. Clare turns up in time for the birth of Eloise's baby — a creature with silver hair which looks as though it knows too much and displays a thirst for vodka.

All this is good fun, given extra edge by the sort of satire in which Ellis has always excelled; but an element of something more than fun is present throughout in the book's intimations of old gods and ghosts lurking in unmapped woods. This leads into musings concerning exactly what it is that can make the natural world seem alien to us. "It was not after all wickedness that hung on the sweet air, infused the pasture and the dappling woods and informed the mute hedgerows. It was absence. The absence of cognizance, of love, of all that mankind might call God."

Ellis is a Roman Catholic, and tends to use her faith to resolve her plots: Simon exorcises the Tylwyth Teg by accidentally quoting a bit of Psalm 23. The merit lies in the fact that Simon is the book's most ineffectual character, and even when his words have saved them all he does not know what he has done.

It is not necessary to share the author's faith in order to like the justice of this, but I was less happy with the way Ellis tries to round everything off just by having her characters forget what has happened to them. Still, there's a troubled irony in the book's last words: "We've forgotten something," says Eloise.

No one who reads *Fairy Tale* is likely to forget it.

Drawing from life and art

Howard Davies on a novelist's re-emergence with an imaginative envisioning of wartime France

Thirty years ago Peter Everett won the Somerset Maugham Prize with his now-forgotten *Negatives*. Since then he has published five more novels without, shall we say, unduly troubling the scorers. Now, at 65, he has given birth to a strange and considerable piece of work — rather as if Graeme Hick, after a long run of single-figure innings, popped up with a double hundred at Karachi.

The ground Everett has chosen is far removed in place and time from his native Sheffield. *Matisse's War* follows its eponymous (anti-)hero around France from 1939 to 1945, after the Fall in 1940. Matisse, it would seem, criss-crossed Vichy and occupied France, regularly bumping into Picasso, Bonnard, Aragon, Elsa Triolet and Camus on his travels.

I say "it would seem" because it is not at all clear how far one is to see *Matisse's War* as a chronicle, and how

MATISSE'S WAR
By Peter Everett
Corgi, £15.99
ISBN 0 224 04483 4

far as an imaginative recreation. Some passages are clearly in the latter category: I doubt that Matisse recorded in quite such vivid detail the fellation skills of his teenage life-class models, and there are lengthy passages of dialogue. The borderline becomes confused when real events intrude, sometimes in an unexpected and baffling way. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor at the end of 1940 shocked Matisse, as it did me. But this is hardly fair. After all, Everett has not written a history essay, and should not be marked down on his dates. He has tried, first, to recreate the daily lives of a group of artists and intellectuals and, second, to explore the impact of war on their art and ideas. The two exercises are to

some extent separable. *Matisse's War* can be read with enjoyment — or at least fascination — as a chronicle of wartime France: from the phoney war through Dunkirk and the conflicting appeals of de Gaulle and Pétain to Laval's collaboration, Oradour-Sur-Glane and the revenge killings in 1945 as scores were settled. Everett also simultaneously addresses the difficult relationships between the active resisters such as Aragon, those such as Matisse who floated with the tide and the "collaboros" Celine, Drieu La Rochelle and Robert Brasillach.

Matisse's War can also, however, be read on another level. It is a kind of double love story. Henri and Lydia are growing old together, their relationship surviving his many casual infidelities. Aragon and Elsa Triolet are an altogether more complex and volatile pair — he married to the Communist Party, she prone to deliberately humiliating promiscuity.

Juggling these themes is an ambitious undertaking — to say nothing of the delicacy required to handle the complex intellectual cross-currents of France in the 1940s, and the artistic rivalry between Matisse and Picasso, which intrudes from time to time. Yet for the most part Everett manages triumphantly — even though he has adopted a challenging staccato style, sprinkled with three-star page breaks reminiscent of *Cold*



Matisse's pencil drawing *Woman in a Hood* (September, 1939); from *Henri Matisse, a novel* by Aragon (Collins, 1972)

Comfort Farm. At times I yearned for him to release the brakes and let his prose and dialogue flow freely. I could have done, too, without the occasional lapse into demotic speech: there are quite a lot of rude words. And there are moments of confusion when

the most dutiful reader may wonder just where, and with whom, she is.

But these are quibbles, and it is better to concentrate on the scale of Everett's unusual achievement. *Matisse's War* is an imaginative tour de force and shows that a contempo-

rary novel can be learned, ambitious, adult and accessible, all at the same time.

I am glad, therefore, that I did not give up on page seven, as I was sorely tempted to do. Lydia's first substantial observation begins: "I do not trust the Bank of England". At-

tached to a woman with such an eccentric world view, perhaps it is not surprising that Matisse's eye wandered as often as it did.

Howard Davies is Deputy Governor of the Bank of England

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Morgan is the nephew of J. P. Morgan, the American industrialist and philanthropist who had taken over the White Star Line to which the *Titanic* belonged. The younger man is not a wastrel — his uncle, who will take nepotism only so far, has set him up with a bottom-rung design job with Harland and Wolff, the ship's builders — but he has little direction, either, and is hemmed in by the claustrophobic world of which he is a part. "This place is thick-a-

block with people who went to the same schools, the same universities, attended the same fencing masters ... There isn't a photograph taken from here to the Nile that doesn't feature 20 or more of us lined up to watch the dicky-bird."

Yet Morgan stands at least a little aloof from this milieu, too. He carries with him a small portrait, by Cézanne, of his mother, of whom he knows almost nothing: on board is Wallis Elery, a girl he adores but whom he is unable to confront with his adoration. He becomes involved with Rosenfelder, a Jew who dreams of making his fortune as a courtier in New York; with Adele, a statuesque beauty who somehow manages to slip the bonds of her class and move easily between the upper and lower decks of the ship. What seems at first to be an environment hermetically

sealed is in fact one in transition, about to be broken apart. The agent of its breaking, was of course, an iceberg; but in Bainbridge's novel there is, as it were, a human iceberg too. Nearly everything about Scourra is a mystery. "The man with the gift of the gab," as Rosenfelder has it, has a scarred mouth (was he bitten by a parrot? Injured in a duel?) which only seems to make his frank utterances more ugly and unwelcome. A man scurriously, indeed, but fascinating with it, and of all the passengers aboard the most undetected. His consciousness, infectious, infects the ship before she goes down: it is Scourra who knows that from here on in it is every man for himself.

To set a novel aboard the *Titanic* is asking for trouble. Her story comes ready-freighted with a store of symbols and a fine cast of characters: it would be easy to sink into clumsy parody. This Bainbridge never does; but nor does she avoid — it would be very strange if she did — the terrible juxtapositions of hope and despair which occurred on that voyage. It is not the *Titanic's* splendour but her engineering that moves Morgan: "If the fate of man was connected to the order of the universe, and if one could

equate the scientific workings of the engines with just such a reciprocal universe, why then, nothing could go wrong with my world."

Morgan learns — first from Scourra, then from the iceberg — that there is no such equation. But for all his hope, he was already on his way to that knowledge; uncertain of

his place in history, in life, he is very much a modern man. As dawn lights the empty ocean, he faces the detritus of the old world — "chairs and tables, crates, an empty gin bottle, a set of bagpipes, a cup without a handle, a creased square of canvas with a girl's face painted on it" — and the first day of the new.

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There's your beautiful nightdress gone

Erica Wagner

EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF

By Beryl Bainbridge
Duckworth, £14.99
ISBN 0 7156 2733 3

In her last novel, *The Birth-day Boys*, Beryl Bainbridge cast her acute and compassionate eye on Captain Scott's fatal expedition to the South Pole in 1911-12. In *Every Man For Himself* she takes on another doomed journey: the *Titanic* set sail barely three months after Scott and his men died in the Antarctic desert. Bainbridge sets her novel aboard the liner, during her first and last days as the greatest ship afloat. It is a moving, microcosmic portrait of an era's bitter end.

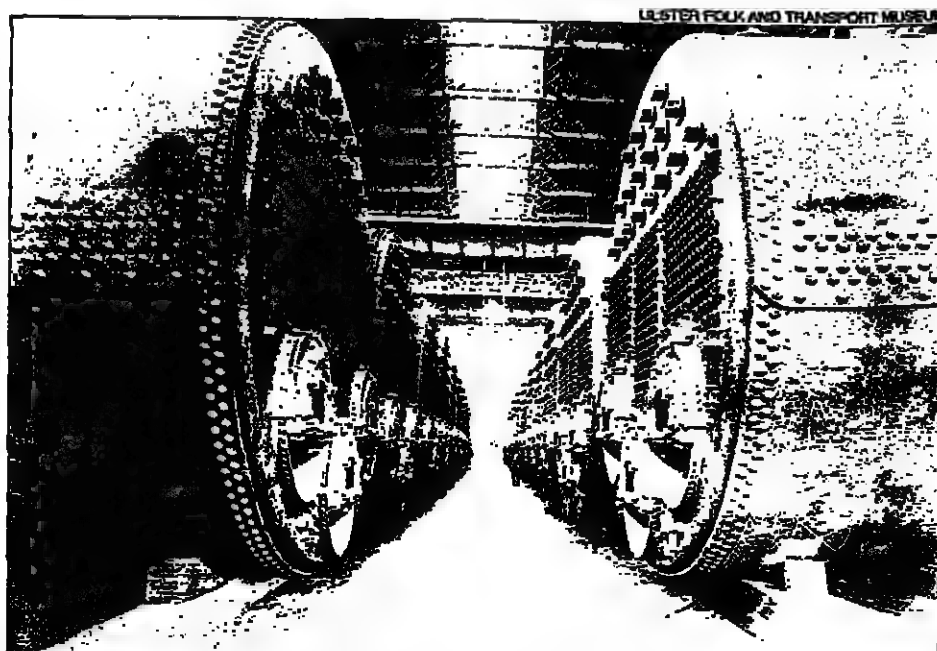
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Human hopes dwarfed: the *Titanic* had 29 vast boilers, each 4.8 metres in diameter

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William Righter enjoys a comprehensive sampling of one of the world's great literatures

This vast and beautifully produced book is in the great tradition of Norton anthologies. One can hardly imagine a more serious and comprehensive sampling of one of the world's greatest, and for Western readers, least accessible, literatures. Professor Owen's great accomplishment, beyond his work of translation and commentary, is to have brought together with those classical poets that are familiar through the Waley translations an extensive repertoire of other works and authors, showing the richness and variety of Chinese literature from the Classic of Poetry, itself an anthology which was compiled during the Zhou dynasty (1025-221 BC), to the end of the Qing in 1911.

As he rightly remarks, in China as well as in the West the definition of what constituted "literature" changed over the centuries, and for most of Chinese history embraced non-fiction, including letters, essays and political documents. This collection presents us with an immense variety, and will please readers who know only the Tang poets and the great prose narratives such as *The Story of the Stone*. Early religious poetry, historical documents, laments, love poems, "cautionary tales", philosophical discourses and dramatic fragments come together to give a panoramic sense of Chinese culture.

Much of it comes from earlier periods; by page 720 of the volume's 1,212-page span, we have only reached the end of the Song dynasty (AD 1279). To the Chinese, this emphasis on the classics of far-distant centuries would seem natural: they are the reference points of the living cultural language. Not least because of the continuity of written Chinese, these works have retained their accessibility for educated Chinese readers, who can understand a Song text with more ease than a reader of English can Chaucer.

The world revealed shows the repeated contrast between the empire of ritual and the exigencies of the court, and the private poetry of withdrawal

AN ANTHOLOGY OF CHINESE LITERATURE
Beginnings to 1911
Edited and translated by
Stephen Owen
Norton, £25
ISBN 0 393 03823 8

and contemplation. There are also themes of self-abandonment, either to wine or Eros or to an intense rapport with nature, conveyed with incredible concision and elegance. From the most intimate present pleasures, the connection is effortlessly made to the distant mountain with its Daoist associations. But one can also delight in the exoticism of later pieces, such as the self-conscious reflexivity of the "silent opera" *Wu-sheng xi*, Li Yu's Qing dynasty tale of an actress's love which dissolves reality in theatrical metaphor and incorporates, at the tale's end, the author's own critical commentary — as severe as a Renaissance discourse on Aristotle's four unities but used to splendidly ironic effect.

The difficulty for the non-Chinese reader is an inward-lookingness in which the complex flow of allusion and analogy links most Chinese works to their tradition. When the poet speaks, for example, of a "heart allowed to run free", he may have in mind the original meaning of the philosopher Mencius — the recovery of childlike innocence — or he might mean a wanton abandonment of restraint.

Professor Owen's commentary is admirable, providing both an adequate sense of context and brief explanations of allusions to real or legendary figures of the past or the reworking of earlier texts, without crowding the volume with an excessive scholarly apparatus. This is a model of clarity and helpfulness.

The principle which governs the translations is impeccable: not to aim at a falsifying "Chineseness", but to create a complex family of differences which "re-invents some of the differences perceived by a



The continuity of written Chinese connects ancient and modern; this *Literary Gathering*, by Emperor Hui Tsung of the Song dynasty (AD 960-1279) is more distant in time than spirit

good reader of Chinese". The problems of turning the Chinese ideogram into intelligible English are admirably and succinctly demonstrated in an example from a poem by Wang Wei, on pp 383-4.

The decision to put classical Chinese into "English" and vernacular into "American" provides some amusing effects, not all of them intentional. "I'm centre stage! I'm smooth" has a bizarrely modern ring. Yet the poem by Guan Han-qing from which it is taken, one of the Yuan vernacular songs, dates back to a period before Chaucer. One can hardly think of a general principle to govern these discrepancies without some small attendant absurdity. Chinese words are rendered in Pinyin, which has now, alas, displaced the Wade-Giles method — more easily deciphered by an English reader — as the authorised system of transliteration.

William Righter was Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Hong Kong. *Mysteries of Ancient China* opens at the British Museum on Friday, September 13.

薄暮空潭曲
towards dusk empty/deserted pool bend
安禪制毒龍
stillness Chan control poison dragon

Towards dusk at the bend of a deserted pool, in meditation's calm I mastered passion's dragon.

Chinese gloss and English translation of Tang verse by poet Wang Wei (AD 699-761)

Is it or is it not, that is the question

Anthony Holden

SHAKESPEARE'S EDWARD III
Edited by Eric Sams
Yale University Press, £18.50
ISBN 0 300 06626 0

makes fascinating reading. After a hamfisted opening scene, barely worthy of the schoolboy Shakespeare, the first two acts comprise a prolonged and elegant sequence in which the King permits an illicit attempt to seduce the Countess of Salisbury to distract him from urgent military matters in Scotland and France. Thus is established the theme of vows, oaths and their sanctity which sustains the play through three more uneven acts set on the battlefields of France.

Even so short a summary, in daring to wonder whether much of the writing is worthy of Shakespeare, is guilty of the heinous sin of "romantic subjectivism". Of course the Bard had his off-days, in other words, but quality is no criterion for adjudging attribution. To the late Sam Schoenbaum, one of the pre-eminent Shakespeare scholars of our time, yet a prime *bête noire* to Sams: "Intuitions, convictions and subjective judgments carry no

weight as evidence." Instead Sams relies on sources, copious parallels to other plays, characteristic neologisms and image clusters (notably the so-called "biot-cluster", an example of word associations found in other works) to render canonisation the "common-sense conclusion".

There are also, of course, the "hundreds of close and clear parallels" to *Edmund Ironside*, accorded two obsessive appendices, given the "unanswerable" case for its inclusion in the canon made by the scholar Sams is most fond of quoting: himself. The arguments of his opponents are

"just literary inventions emanating from the elitist attitudes of 1920s Oxbridge that still dominate orthodox scholarship worldwide".

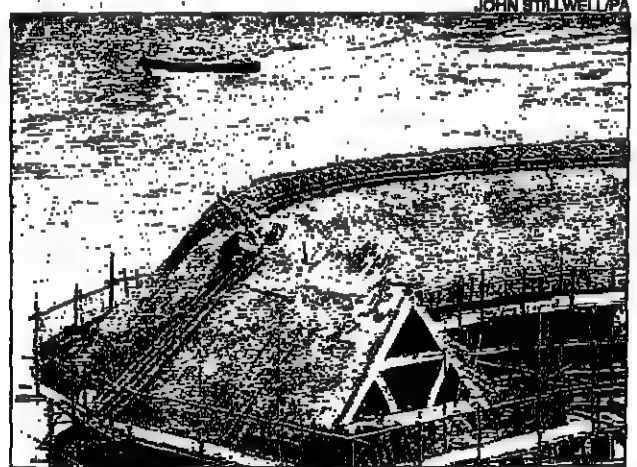
As with *The Real Shakespeare*, his revisionist account of the playwright's early years. Sams's often beguiling arguments are couched in this tetchy tone of voice, so strident as to protest too much, robbing his learning of the authority it might otherwise merit.

In his biography, nevertheless, Sams made a persuasive case that the young Shakespeare had been at work in London for some seven years

before Greene's "upstart crow" denunciation of 1592, thus exploding the myth of the "late developing" dramatist. There is evidence beyond two topical references to the Armada that *Edward III* was written and performed as early as 1589, though not published (anonymously) until 1596.

A 1768 edition by Edward Capell proclaimed it "a play thought to be written by Shakespeare". The subsequent consensus for collaboration has attributed parts variously to Drayton, Greene, Lodge and Peele, perhaps Marlowe. But Tennyson has not been alone in considering the "Countess of Salisbury section" fine enough to be the work of Shakespeare, not least because it contains a line familiar from the contemporary *Sonnets*: "Lilies that fester smell far worse than weeds."

Could this have been Shakespeare borrowing from himself, or another writer stealing his best lines? Yet again Sams rehearses the timeworn arguments about plagiarism, collaboration, stylometry and "memorial reconstruction", this time with venomous hostility, to reach some breathtakingly sweeping conclusions. The Cambridge consensus, for instance, amounts to "in part by Shakespeare", the Oxford consensus to "by the same hand throughout". Ergo, concludes Sams with characteristic logic, "by Shakespeare throughout". Others, I suspect, will continue to enrage him by begging leave to persist in their doubts.



Authentic Bard? The new Globe Theatre thatched, 1995

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ARROW

Less pain, our gain

Thomas Stuttaford

THE CAMBRIDGE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF MEDICINE
Edited by Roy Porter
Cambridge University Press, £24.95
ISBN 0 521 44211 7



Learning's progress: French anatomy text, circa 1840

Until comparatively recently, doctors needed a kindly, distant professional manner to hide an overwhelming ignorance and their inability to alter the natural history of most diseases.

As medical ignorance has receded, and as the power to treat, and cure, disease has increased, so has the medical professional become less reticent, and patients, and the lay public in general, are now told about their troubles and medicine is explained to them. The response has been an increasing fascination with every aspect of the subject.

Until recently doctors could only make diagnoses, treat symptoms, in particular pain, and predict, often inaccurately, the course of the disease. Only rarely were they able to interfere with its progress, let alone effect a cure.

Over the past 150 years, the situation has been changing: for the past 30 years the practice of medicine has been revolutionised.

Given this interest in medicine, the general public's expectation of what doctors can achieve and the encouraging story which can be told about medical evolution, the dullness of most medical textbooks is surprising.

The *Cambridge Illustrated History of Medicine* is an exception to this rule. Edited by Roy Porter, it is written in straightforward, easily understood but not patronising English by a team of writers who seem to have ensured that every page contains fascinating details of the history of disease and the way in which society has attempted to deal with it.

The book is not only an

tives, together with its role in a changing society and its limitations, to the inevitable point when the ever increasing expectations of the public can no longer be met.

The survey starts in 9,000 BC. When human beings were hunter-gatherers, wandering

together with its role in a changing society and its limitations, to the inevitable point when the ever increasing expectations of the public can no longer be met.

Learning's progress: French anatomy text, circa 1840

Learning's progress: French anatomy text, circa 1840

Learning's progress: French anatomy text, circa 1840

Learning's progress: French anatomy text, circa 1840

in small family groups, infectious diseases didn't pose much risk to their health. Once farming became established and people began to live in static communities, they became prey to pathological organisms and epidemics. The doctor's role was firmly assured after the first towns became established around 4,000 BC: the overcrowding associated with urban life has always guaranteed a ready supply of patients, and the medical profession, however parious it has sometimes been, has never looked back.

Doctors may have been, as Roy Porter suggests, impotent from the time of Greek civilisation to the First World War, but they had a simple role: to limit the damage caused by disease and gross disability, to ensure when possible a live birth and to ease pain.

Since then the situation has changed. For at least a generation scientific medicine has triumphed over disease in way which would have been thought impossible even after the Second World War. Society will now have to decide what it requires of doctors in the future, what it can afford, and how it will control those doctors whose scientific lust has made them lose sight of basic human values.

Patients' hearts may benefit from the diagnostic power of thallium scanning but they will certainly benefit, too, from the kindly words and concern of any operator of the machinery: medicine is always changing but human nature remains the same. Gaelen understood his patients' needs and cosseted their fragile psyches in the 2nd century AD — patients are

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Q4W1510, Q4

THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME

Pos	Team (Player's name)	Pos	Team (Player's name)	Pos	Team (Player's name)
1	Estons Goats 2 (J Eaton)	17,583	24	Comans Bulls 2 (D Blackburn)	16,509
2	Estons Goats 1 (J Eaton)	17,272	25	GB's First XI (J Brooker)	16,488
3	Opportunity 3rd XI (P Stewart)	17,254	26	Torridge Taps (C Hubert)	16,488
4	Seafordshire 2nd XI (P Stewart)	17,220	27	Sandwich Stag (J Elks)	16,444
5	Kalib's Corkers 2 (N Kelly)	17,220	28	Opportunity 1st XI (P Stewart)	16,444
6	Estons Goats 3 (J Eaton)	17,010	29	Caroline C (A Lushurst)	16,439
7	Opportunity 4th XI (P Stewart)	17,000	30	Caroline A (A Lushurst)	16,433
8	KP Allstars 3 (R Pate)	16,966	31	Pannal Beaters (J S Hutchinson)	16,417
9	Teddy 3 (B Burt)	16,743	32	DUN 8 (D J Hackett)	16,391
10	Chislehurst School (M Roberts)	16,702	33	Caroline D (A Lushurst)	16,349
11	The Run Rats (J Tait)	16,694	34	Danny Boys (D J Hackett)	16,343
12	Wokingham Wanderers (D Brunt)	16,623	35	Stars Wars 3 (C Ali)	16,312
13	The Ton Machine (N Kait)	16,758	36	Frede Team (P Price)	16,309
14	Bowling Marlin (N Pate)	16,748	37	Likely Loss (M Hackett)	16,309
15	Heaven's 5th XI (J Wad)	16,737	38	Clifford A (M Long)	16,270
16	Taff's Tigers (J Short)	16,643	39	The Crofters (M Hackett)	16,268
17	Alstons (P Stewart)	16,599	40	Clifford B (M Long)	16,254
18	Barbet Rangers (J S Hutchinson)	16,564	41	PJM 1 (P J Wood)	16,237
19	Torridge Champions (C Hubert)	16,558	42	Oh Jilly (M Long)	16,236
20	Caroline 1 (A Lushurst)	16,555	43	Johnson's First XI (R J Johnson)	16,234
21	Hollocks (M Ward)	16,524	44	Kalib's Corkers 5 (N Kelly)	16,210
22			45	Eastbrook Wanderers (P Rawlin)	16,122



Pos	Team (Player's name)	Pos	Team (Player's name)
47	Wig's Wanderers (A Wiley-Jones)	16,202	
48	Silly Mad Wickets (J Tracy)	16,181	
49	MCM (M Pook)	16,181	
50	Webbs Wanderers (A R House)	16,163	
51	Kalib's Corkers 1 (N Kelly)	16,145	
52	Early Birds 3 (M Whaley)	16,138	
53	Davey Diamonds (D Tait)	16,124	
54	Eastbrook Wanderers (P Rawlin)	16,122	

INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET SCOREBOARD

The scores in brackets are the points scored in the last week; the other scores are the cumulative points scored since the start of the season. The figures include all matches completed by September 2. Overruns players are shown in bold type. Rising stars in *italic*.

Batsmen (001-135)

Player (No)	Runs	Wickets	Total
C Adams (001)	1454 (124)	0	1454 (124)
C Adams (002)	571 (34)	0	571 (34)
C Adams (003)	539 (30)	0	539 (30)
C Adams (004)	441 (119)	0	441 (119)
C Adams (005)	400 (100)	0	400 (100)
C Adams (006)	380 (100)	0	380 (100)
C Adams (007)	370 (100)	0	370 (100)
C Adams (008)	360 (100)	0	360 (100)
C Adams (009)	350 (100)	0	350 (100)
C Adams (010)	340 (100)	0	340 (100)
C Adams (011)	330 (100)	0	330 (100)
C Adams (012)	320 (100)	0	320 (100)
C Adams (013)	310 (100)	0	310 (100)
C Adams (014)	300 (100)	0	300 (100)
C Adams (015)	290 (100)	0	290 (100)
C Adams (016)	280 (100)	0	280 (100)
C Adams (017)	270 (100)	0	270 (100)
C Adams (018)	260 (100)	0	260 (100)
C Adams (019)	250 (100)	0	250 (100)
C Adams (020)	240 (100)	0	240 (100)
C Adams (021)	230 (100)	0	230 (100)
C Adams (022)	220 (100)	0	220 (100)
C Adams (023)	210 (100)	0	210 (100)
C Adams (024)	200 (100)	0	200 (100)
C Adams (025)	190 (100)	0	190 (100)
C Adams (026)	180 (100)	0	180 (100)
C Adams (027)	170 (100)	0	170 (100)
C Adams (028)	160 (100)	0	160 (100)
C Adams (029)	150 (100)	0	150 (100)
C Adams (030)	140 (100)	0	140 (100)
C Adams (031)	130 (100)	0	130 (100)
C Adams (032)	120 (100)	0	120 (100)
C Adams (033)	110 (100)	0	110 (100)
C Adams (034)	100 (100)	0	100 (100)
C Adams (035)	90 (100)	0	90 (100)
C Adams (036)	80 (100)	0	80 (100)
C Adams (037)	70 (100)	0	70 (100)
C Adams (038)	60 (100)	0	60 (100)
C Adams (039)	50 (100)	0	50 (100)
C Adams (040)	40 (100)	0	40 (100)
C Adams (041)	30 (100)	0	30 (100)
C Adams (042)	20 (100)	0	20 (100)
C Adams (043)	10 (100)	0	10 (100)
C Adams (044)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (045)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (046)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (047)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (048)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (049)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (050)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (051)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (052)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (053)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (054)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (055)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (056)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (057)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (058)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (059)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (060)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (061)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (062)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (063)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (064)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (065)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (066)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (067)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (068)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (069)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (070)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (071)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (072)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (073)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (074)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (075)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (076)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (077)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (078)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (079)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (080)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (081)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (082)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (083)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (084)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (085)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (086)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (087)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (088)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (089)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (090)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (091)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (092)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (093)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (094)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (095)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (096)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (097)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (098)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (099)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (100)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITC

The transfer line will open at 6am each Tuesday and will close at 6pm the following Monday. All transfers made during the period will be applied to team selectors' teams prior to the commencement of the next first-class match. Transfer lines may be altered slightly to accommodate changes in first-class matches and prior notification will be published in the Times. Transfers may only be made by telephone by calling

A team selector may transfer up to two players in his/her team per transfer period. Whether you are transferring one or two players, your team must be reformed according to the format of the tournament, one all-rounder, one batsman and one bowler. You must also have a minimum of one batsman and one bowler. You may check your team score and position in ITC by calling the ITC Cricket Line on

Player (No)	Runs	Wickets	Total
C Adams (001)	1454 (124)	0	1454 (124)
C Adams (002)	571 (34)	0	571 (34)
C Adams (003)	539 (30)	0	539 (30)
C Adams (004)	441 (119)	0	441 (119)
C Adams (005)	400 (100)	0	400 (100)
C Adams (006)	380 (100)	0	380 (100)
C Adams (007)	370 (100)	0	370 (100)
C Adams (008)	360 (100)	0	360 (100)
C Adams (009)	350 (100)	0	350 (100)
C Adams (010)	340 (100)	0	340 (100)
C Adams (011)	330 (100)	0	330 (100)
C Adams (012)	320 (100)	0	320 (100)
C Adams (013)	310 (100)	0	310 (100)
C Adams (014)	300 (100)	0	300 (100)
C Adams (015)	290 (100)	0	290 (100)
C Adams (016)	280 (100)	0	280 (100)
C Adams (017)	270 (100)	0	270 (100)
C Adams (018)	260 (100)	0	260 (100)
C Adams (019)	250 (100)	0	250 (100)
C Adams (020)	240 (100)	0	240 (100)
C Adams (021)	230 (100)	0	230 (100)
C Adams (022)	220 (100)	0	220 (100)
C Adams (023)	210 (100)	0	210 (100)
C Adams (024)	200 (100)	0	200 (100)
C Adams (025)	190 (100)	0	190 (100)
C Adams (026)	180 (100)	0	180 (100)
C Adams (027)	170 (100)	0	170 (100)
C Adams (028)	160 (100)	0	160 (100)
C Adams (029)	150 (100)	0	150 (100)
C Adams (030)	140 (100)	0	140 (100)
C Adams (031)	130 (100)	0	130 (100)
C Adams (032)	120 (100)	0	120 (100)
C Adams (033)	110 (100)	0	110 (100)
C Adams (034)	100 (100)	0	100 (100)
C Adams (035)	90 (100)	0	90 (100)
C Adams (036)	80 (100)	0	80 (100)
C Adams (037)	70 (100)	0	70 (100)
C Adams (038)	60 (100)	0	60 (100)
C Adams (039)	50 (100)	0	50 (100)
C Adams (040)	40 (100)	0	40 (100)
C Adams (041)	30 (100)	0	30 (100)
C Adams (042)	20 (100)	0	20 (100)
C Adams (043)	10 (100)	0	10 (100)
C Adams (044)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (045)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (046)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (047)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (048)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (049)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (050)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (051)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (052)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (053)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (054)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (055)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (056)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (057)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (058)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (059)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (060)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (061)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (062)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (063)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (064)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (065)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (066)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (067)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (068)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (069)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (070)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (071)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (072)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (073)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (074)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (075)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (076)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (077)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (078)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (079)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (080)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (081)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (082)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (083)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (084)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (085)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (086)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (087)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (088)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (089)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (090)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (091)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (092)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (093)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (094)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (095)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (096)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (097)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (098)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (099)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)
C Adams (100)	0 (100)	0	0 (100)

Wicketkeepers (225-255)

Lewis (343)	114	0	114	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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IN BRIEF

Induráin nearing end of the road

MIGUEL INDURÁIN, five times a winner of the Tour de France, may retire from cycling this year, sources close to his team, Banesto, have said. Francis Lafargue, the manager of Induráin, 32, who won the gold medal for the time-trial at the Atlanta Olympic Games, told the sports daily, As, that the Spaniard would not compete for another season just for money.

Andy Wilkinson's British record ride of 300,270 miles in the national championship 12-hour time-trial has placed him at the head of the competition for the best all-rounder of the season, with an average speed of 27.902mph.

World Cup stalls

Motor sport: The FIA touring car World Cup, due to be staged at the A-1 Ring in Austria on October 20, has been cancelled because of lack of support from the leading teams in Europe. FIA, the sport's governing body, received only ten entries for the international event, which has been held for the past three years.

England ease up

Hockey: England, already assured of a place against Germany in the semi-finals tomorrow, lost 4-2 to Holland in their last pool match yesterday at Vejle, Denmark, in the men's European Junior Cup. Holland established a 3-0 lead before Alistair Boyse and Mark Pearn, from a penalty stroke, scored for England.

Oxford recruit

Rowing: Oxford, with four successive Boat Race defeats behind them, have taken on an extra coach to try to end the supremacy of Cambridge. Rene Mijnders, 40, head coach of the Holland squad for the past ten years, will play a leading role in the coaching team this winter.

Roberts on target

Shooting: Ann Roberts, from Liverpool, became the first woman to win the Police Athletic Association's free rifle championship at Bisley yesterday, scoring 1,096 points firing from prone, standing and kneeling positions.

TENNIS: WORLD NO 1 REACHES US OPEN SEMI-FINALS DESPITE SHADOW OF COURT CASE

Graf puts troubles to one side

FROM DAVID MILLER IN NEW YORK

AT THE moment of the worst emotional crisis of her life, Steffi Graf is finding escape in the only place that she knows — on the tennis court. Yesterday, the day before the opening of the trial of her father, Peter Graf, for tax evasion in Germany, she was able to focus unwaveringly in her 7-5, 6-3 victory over Judith Wiesner, of Austria, reaching the semi-final of her 44th grand-slam event.

It is remarkable to observe the equanimity of this legendary player at a time when the stress within must be extreme. From her youngest days, she has been intensely close to her father, who, for so many years, was her guide and mentor on and off the courts while she climbed from obscurity to stardom. Since the father became embroiled in charges of fraud, for the daughter it has been as though she were emotionally shipwrecked.

Yet you would never have known from watching her yesterday, as she came from 2-4 down in the first set to inch

Results 37

her way past the steadiest of opponents who has an almost equally extensive, if far less accomplished, experience of grand-slam events. This was Wiesner's 36th, yet Wimbledon two months ago and now Flashing Meadow have witnessed her first appearances at the quarter-final stage. At Wimbledon, she lost in straight sets to Arantxa Sánchez Vicario.

Graf, who understandably declines to discuss her intimate reactions to the trauma surrounding her father, has said to a friend that she tries to blot out the distress by focusing on her tennis, point by point. It is the thing she knows best, the one area where she can demonstrate the glory and the pure innocence of her game. Now, while her father confronts the technicalities of law and justice, she attempts to extend further still the unending string of her triumphs of court.

Wiesner had lost every encounter with Graf, though that did not deter her from believing that she had a chance yesterday. She substantiated that confidence when she took an early lead with a service break, but it was



Graf drives another of her booming forehands during her defeat of Wiesner in the quarter-finals yesterday

a flutter of encouragement that was not to last long.

"Sometimes I went for too much, sometimes for too little," Wiesner reflected on those break points and game points that she had lost. Her respect for her opponent's demeanour at a time of crisis was unreserved. "I can't think of anybody who is having a more difficult time," Wiesner said. "I am amazed how anyone can shrug off all that stuff [concerning her father]."

Graf broke back 4-4 in the first set with a flowing backhand down the line and broke again for the set at 5-6. Wiesner positively going for the lines but over-hitting on a backhand volley and two drives from the baseline.

In the next game, Wiesner had three break points to lead 1-0 in the second set. The first she missed when putting a forehand volley in the base of the net with open court; the second and third, Graf rescued with volleys. From there on, Graf was in charge, characteristically running round her backhand whenever possible to sweep flat forehands deep to her opponent's backhand. At 5-2, Wiesner bravely saved two match points, but she had no answer to the third in the next game as Graf pushed her wide with a first service deep to the backhand and then flashed a fearsome, unplayable forehand down the other flank.

In the semi-final Graf will meet either Jana Novotna, the No 7 seed, or the 15-year-old Swiss prodigy, Martina Hingis. Hingis defeated Graf in the Italian Open this year. Pressed to discuss afterwards her place among the all-time greats of the game, Graf puffed her cheeks and, modestly, dismissed the question. "I can only talk about that after I'm finished," said the woman who is now in her 34th week as the world's No 1 player, the longest ever.

British tennis followers will be mourning the departure on Tuesday night of Tim Henman in his last-16 encounter with Stefan Edberg, who lost the first set but recovered to win 6-7, 7-6, 6-4.

BOWLS

Evergreen Molyneux wins again

BY DAVID RYAN JONES

IRENE MOLYNEUX, who won the Double Century national triples title for the fourth time at Royal Leamington Spa yesterday, is something of a legend in the sport and seems to have been on the scene for ever.

After steering her City and County of Oxford club colleagues, Audrey Mainwaring and Greta Winston, to an 18-11 win over Jean Morris, Cath Smith and Jill Edson, of Lincoln, she declined to reveal her age, claiming, with some justification, that age was irrelevant.

"When I feel I'm not pulling my weight, I will retire gracefully," she said, "but I think I'm playing well, and I'm still enjoying my bowls." Rumour has it that Molyneux has already celebrated her seventieth birthday.

"I started playing in the late Fifties and took to the game instantly," she said. "I even gave up my job as a receptionist at a local hospital so that I could concentrate on my bowls, and I've had a lifetime's enjoyment out of the sport." The Lincoln trio did all they could to dislodge the favourites, but Molyneux played the captain's part at skip, denying them time after time.

Smith, who was born in Edinburgh, has had previous experience of losing in the triples final, when she played out of the North Searle club in 1989. Her husband, also a bowler, would normally have been there to watch her in the final, but he is a warrant officer in the RAF, and has been posted to the Falklands for his last tour of duty.

Smith teamed up with Morris and Edson for the first time in 1991, and the three reached the quarter-finals in 1994, and again last year. Only four shots adrift with three ends to play, Lincoln's hopes were dashed on the 16th end, when Molyneux conjured up three shots — this time, for once, with a fluke.

GOLF

Walker upbeat about Europe's Cup chances

BY MEL WEBB

THE Solheim Cup team has been named, the tempo is building for the big match against the United States in two weeks, and the glorious hoopla that always surrounds team golf against the old enemy was still the game to be played yesterday at Hanbury Manor, where the European Open starts today.

Mickey Walker, who will be captaining the European team for the fourth time when the Solheim Cup match gets under way at St Pierre, near Chesham, two weeks tomorrow, held a press conference at the Hertfordshire club yesterday. She had with her Trish Johnson, who earned her place in the team, and Dale Reid, who did not, but was picked anyway. From their mood (confident), and the light of battle in their eyes (keen), they want the Cup back and are not prepared to countenance anything else.

"I feel passionately about it and I know that every member of the European tour feels very passionately about winning the Cup back," Walker said. "I think we've got a great chance. There is no other feeling like it. I don't play in it — I just sit and feel terrible."

Most golfers have heard of the best players in Europe, for they are also the best players anywhere. Laura Davies continues to be the dominant force in world golf and Annika Sorenstam and Liselotte Neumann follow her in short order in the world rankings.

Some of the rest, however, do not trip off the tongue with the same fluency and, although Europe will be as strong as they have ever been, there is no doubting that the women's professional game on this side of the Atlantic could do with every scrap of exposure it can get if it is to grow.

It is likely to pick up some this week, with Davies, Johnson and Reid in the field for a £100,000 tournament that is being supported by Marks & Spencer.

MOTOR RACING

Frentzen to replace Hill at Williams

BY OLIVER HOLT

THE Williams team confirmed yesterday that it will replace Damon Hill with the German driver, Heinz-Harald Frentzen, at the end of this season. Frentzen, 29, who races for the Sauber team, has been strongly linked with Williams for several months and will partner Jacques Villeneuve next year.

Hill is still searching for a drive for next season and will speak about his dismissal for the first time when he arrives in Monza today to prepare for the Italian Grand Prix this weekend. Yesterday, however, Frank Williams, the team owner, paid tribute to Hill's contribution to the team in the five years he has worked there.

"Damon has contributed greatly to the team both as a test and race driver," Williams said. "He has done an excellent job for us. I think his record speaks for itself, as very few drivers have ever approached his record of 20 wins from 64 starts. He will be missed by everyone at our Grove factory and we all wish him the best of luck for the remainder of this year, as well as the future."

Williams has already assured Hill, who leads the world drivers' championship by 13 points and could clinch it in Italy, that he will receive the same treatment as Villeneuve, the only man who can overtake him.

Williams will all have to go to church on Sunday and pray for unreliability. It is not on the agenda today to have Michael in the team, but of course I would like to see him in a Williams."

Williams has already assured Hill, who leads the world drivers' championship by 13 points and could clinch it in Italy, that he will receive the same treatment as Villeneuve, the only man who can overtake him.

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RACING: FORMER CHAMPION GIVEN TWO-DAY SUSPENSION

Eddery free to partner Dushyantor in Leger

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

PAT EDDERY was punished belatedly yesterday for the "best ride of the season" but left York racecourse relieved that a two-day ban will not prevent him from seeking a third classic victory of the season in the St Leger on Saturday week.

When Eddery won the Galtres Stakes on Eva Luna on the Knavesmire two weeks ago, the ten-times champion jockey was lauded for his performance, with Henry Cecil leading the congratulations. However, after Eddery had left the racecourse the York stewards decided to hold an inquiry into his use of the whip.

The hearing was delayed until yesterday and Eddery knew that if the stewards found him guilty his dreams

of further classic success would hinge on the length of the ban handed out. Although any suspension would start tomorrow week, the day before the St Leger, jockeys are allowed to split a two-day suspension if it clashes with a group one race — but the concession does not apply to longer bans.

Eddery, who has served two previous whip bans this season, used the whip 15 times on Eva Luna but the stewards imposed the minimum sentence because the jockey had not employed undue force.

"I am disappointed to have been banned but relieved it is not more," Eddery said. The two-day ban will also enable Eddery to ride in the Arc trials at Longchamp the day after the St Leger.

Having won the 1,000 Guineas on Bosra Sham and the Oaks on Lady Carla, Eddery is hoping Dushyantor, run-

ner-up in the Derby, can help him complete a classic treble. The well-trained colt remains 7-2 joint-favourite with Mons, who finished half a length behind Dushyantor in the Great Voltigeur Stakes.

However, the significant betting move yesterday flowed from the somewhat surprising decision by Frankie Dettori to partner Shantou, rather than Sharaf Kabeer, in the St Leger. Ladbrokes responded by cutting Shantou from 12-1 to 8-1, while Sharaf Kabeer was knocked out to a point to 9-2.

A difficult York card offered some pointers to end-of-season handicaps, with Options Open confirming his liking for the Knavesmire when he secured a third course victory in the Lawrence Handicap. The Lynda Ramsden-trained colt, bought cheaply

from Godolphin earlier this year, will carry a 7lb penalty in Europe's richest sprint handicap. "He won't win with that, will he?" Jack Ramsden, the trainer's husband, reacted.

When Ballynakelly completed his seventh consecutive success at Sandown last month in preparation for a crack at the Cesarewitch, Jijush was a respectable second. The value of that form was underlined when Jijush won the Bailey's Cash & Carry Handicap emphatically.

Ladbrokes makes the Reg Akhurst-trained Ballynakelly a 16-1 chance, but punters seeking an early interest in the 24-mile test are sure to be attracted by the 8-1 on offer with Ladbrokes against Canon Can. The improving stayer, trained by Henry Cecil, won the Phil Bull Trophy at Pontefract on Tuesday and is set to carry only 7st 9lb in the Newmarket handicap.



Options Open gains his third York success with a fluent victory in the Lawrence Bailey Handicap yesterday

YORK

THUNDERER

2.10 Wind Cheetham
2.40 Ochre Rios
3.10 Even Top

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.40 ARABIAN STORY. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.10 Wind Cheetham, 3.10 EVEN TOP (nap), 4.10 General's Star.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE TOTE/JOCKEY MEETING

2.10 WEATHERBY/MISCO HOUSEHOLD INSURANCE MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £5,680; 8f) (16 runners)

111 (10)	AMMO (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	111 (10)	AMMO (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
112 (10)	BROAD RIVER (M. J. Hannon) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	113 (10)	BROAD RIVER (M. J. Hannon) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
114 (10)	4 DANCING FLIGHT (B. J. Hannon) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	115 (10)	4 DANCING FLIGHT (B. J. Hannon) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
116 (10)	JOHN EMMES (B. J. Hannon) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	117 (10)	JOHN EMMES (B. J. Hannon) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
118 (10)	NIGHT CHORUS (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	119 (10)	NIGHT CHORUS (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
120 (10)	555 OUT OF SIGHT (B. J. Hannon) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	121 (10)	555 OUT OF SIGHT (B. J. Hannon) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
122 (10)	STYLISH DANCER (B. J. Hannon) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	123 (10)	STYLISH DANCER (B. J. Hannon) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
124 (10)	THORNTON (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	125 (10)	THORNTON (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
126 (10)	WIND CHEETHAM (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	127 (10)	WIND CHEETHAM (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
128 (10)	YAM-SING (B. J. Hannon) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	129 (10)	YAM-SING (B. J. Hannon) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
130 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	131 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
132 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	133 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
134 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	135 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
136 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	137 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
138 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	139 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
140 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	141 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
142 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	143 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
144 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	145 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
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148 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	149 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
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160 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	161 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
162 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	163 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
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168 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	169 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
170 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	171 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
172 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	173 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
174 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland	175 (10)	YORKSHIRE (D. Bland) 4-10 (D. Bland) 4-10	D. Bland
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EQUESTRIANISM

Blunt Todd states dual objective

By Jenny MacArthur

MARK TODD, of New Zealand, the winner of Badminton in May on Bertie Blunt, has a chance to complete a rare double when he competes with the same horse at the Burghley Horse Trials, sponsored by Pedigree Churn, which begin today in the grounds of Burghley House, near Stamford, Lincolnshire.

The dual Olympic champion, who also rides the less experienced Kingarrie, heads a formidable 85-strong entry. The field includes the winner last year, Andrew Nicholson, of New Zealand, on Buckley Province, and the United States Olympic team silver medal-winner, Bruce Davidson, with his 1995 Badminton winner, Eagle Lion.



Todd: setbacks

Karen Dixon with her 1994 world bronze medal-winner, Get Smart, and Mary King, who rides Star Appeal, head the home entry.

Only two riders — Lucinda Green and Ginny Elliot, both of Great Britain — have succeeded in winning both Badminton and Burghley in the same year. Todd's resolve to become the third has been sharpened by recent setbacks. He was unable to attempt to win a third Olympic gold medal in Atlanta, when Kayem, his intended ride, pulled a back muscle two days before the start of the event.

Bertie Blunt — who might have given Todd a fourth Burghley win in 1994 had the rider not missed out a flag on

the speed and endurance phase — was ineligible for the Olympic Games because he was not in New Zealand ownership on January 1. The 12-year-old gelding, by Sunnyboy, owned by Robert and Melita Howell, was removed from Todd's yard last year after a disagreement with his sponsor but was returned this March. "It's been a frustrating time," Todd said.

Dixon poses one of the main threats to him this week. She has the most experienced horse in the field in the 16-year-old Get Smart, a veteran of two Olympics and a member of Britain's gold medal-winning team at the 1994 world championships.

Despite his consistent record Get Smart has never won a leading three-day event. He arrives at Burghley, his fifteenth three-day event, in buoyant form after finishing fourth at the Scottish championships last month. Having first competed at the event as a seven-year-old in 1987 — when he finished twelfth — a win on the same ground this weekend would provide the sweetest of swansons.

Other leading contenders for the £15,000 first prize include the former Olympic champion, Matt Ryan, of Australia, with Hinnegar, the Briton, William Fox-Pitt, the winner in 1994, with Loch Alan, Ian Stark with Forest Glen and Kristina Gifford, who is riding General Jack, a world team gold medal-winner in 1994.

Since Mark Phillips started designing the course at Burghley he has continuously upgraded it in keeping with the four-star status of the event. Where once Burghley was the "easier" option to Badminton, it is now the autumn equivalent. This year is no exception. Phillips's uncompromising 33-fence course for the cross country on Saturday — for which the going is excellent — will swiftly disabuse any who thought this might be a more lenient Burghley after the Olympic Games.



Tyson hammers the heavy bag in training for his world title bout with Seldon. Photograph: Tom Casino

Thinking-man's Tyson offers illusion of peaceful intent

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN LAS VEGAS

IF BRUCE SELDON could have been present at a Mike Tyson "at home" on Tuesday, he might have felt somewhat less fearful of the face that awaits him when the two meet at the MGM Grand Garden here on Saturday. Indeed, Seldon might have imagined that the chances of him lasting more than a couple of rounds had greatly improved. For Tyson was a million miles away from the world of violence that everyone thinks he never leaves.

In the soft sunlight of Don King's magnificent mansion in east Las Vegas, Tyson talked about every subject in the world but the business of beating up Seldon. From one's obligation to children, Marx and Tolstoy — "he was a

lascivious man" — crime and punishment. God and salvation. Most of it was, of course, stream-of-consciousness stuff but through it all one could see that he was trying to rationalise the purpose of life after prison.

He laughed and joked and the barriers that he usually puts up between himself and his listeners were down. He was approachable and understanding.

He held up Frank Bruno as a model to emulate. Far from belittling his old opponent for his failures in the ring against him, Tyson said: "We should look at his successes and put that down in our little book. It doesn't matter if he could not fight, fighting is a small thing in your life. He's got probably

50 or 40 more years, now he has to be a person. He's got to be counted on as a person. He is a good man. I love him."

Tyson said the old pre-prison Tyson was no more. "When I was young I didn't make a big deal about anything. I didn't think I'd live to be 30 so I didn't care. I was a guy on the street, hanging around with bitches and women. That guy's dead."

"I'm a better fighter now than I was before but I would not have beaten that guy. He was awesome. I was a wild man then, having a different lifestyle hanging out with women. There is no way I can tell you what I used to do the night before a fight. But it made me what I was. I was completely out of control."

He said that he missed his life as he pleased. Being under probation for two more years, he cannot leave Ohio for anything other than business, and that, too, with special permission.

"I have no freedom. Would you say I'm a free man on stipulation?" Perhaps that is why Tyson has acquired a tiger, now 13 months old, and a lion cub, and given them the freedom of his house. "The

tiger, Kenya, runs round the house and up the walls and jumps up behind you and can take a chunk out of you."

He went on: "I don't get angry any more because I want to stay out of the penitentiary. I had the privilege of becoming acquainted with some very interesting people while I was in there. That was the only good thing about my time in jail. It has made me more conscious of the world we live in."

Tyson said that he intended to give up boxing and his worldly possessions in 18 months to three years time and go to Mecca to find out what life holds for him. "I don't need three houses and 30 cars and I don't want to be recognised any more. I will give up this life and my possessions. I want to go to Mecca and find out what I'm going to do for the rest of my life. I love fighting but now I can't wait to give it up."

As he saw us out after the interview, shaking each one by the hand, he said: "Life is an illusion. Everything is an illusion."

One could not help wondering, though, what Seldon might say about that when he gets his first clout across the ears on Saturday.

McMillan takes aim

COLIN McMILLAN, buoyed by his impressive victory over Trust Ndlovu, of Zimbabwe, in their Commonwealth featherweight title final eliminator at York Hall, Bethnal Green, on Tuesday, has put a contest with Naseem Hamed, the World Boxing Organisation champion, at the top of his agenda.

However, McMillan, who exuded confidence in stopping Ndlovu after one minute 40 seconds of round seven, would

be prepared to go in any direction for one of the world titles on offer.

Frank Maloney, his promoter, said: "There are a lot of options for Colin now, and obviously the one we would like is Naseem; I think it will be an easier fight than Wayne McCullough, of Ireland. I believe I could sit down with Hamed's promoter, Frank Warren, and talk a deal. If not, we will just keep Colin busy and see what happens."

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

QUADRIVM (a) The collective name given by the Schoolmen of the Middle Ages to the four "liberal arts", viz. arithmetic, music, geometry and astronomy. The quadrivium was the fourth way to knowledge: the trivium the threefold way to eloquence, both together comprising the seven liberal arts enumerated in the following hexameter: *Lingua, Tropus, Ratio, Numerus, Torus, Angulus, Astra*. Aristophanes has a room full of students with their noses to the ground and their bottoms in the air. "These are our prize pupils. They are studying Botany with their noses and Astronomy with their bottoms."

GYP (a) A Gyp looked (looks) after undergraduates at Cambridge (and Durham), as Scouts did at Oxford. He ran errands, waited at table, woke men for morning chapel, brushed their clothes, etc. Origin obscure. The word is probably from *gippo*, a 17th-century term for a scullion. Possibly from the French *jupieu*, a short jacket. Improbably from the American slang *gyp* to cheat.

ETON CROP (a) A short boyish hairstyle, fairly popular among English women in the 1920s, named after the shorter hair cut enforced at the school in those days. Can it have anything much to do with Agar's Plough?

SCHOLIAST (a) A pedantic writer of marginal notes and glosses. Mock not such pedants. Much of our knowledge of great literature was preserved by them. "The commentators don't agree with me." "All right, try Jerry Rogers, then."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE 1 Bx7! Rxd7 2 Rxf8 Rxf8 3 Rxf8 Kxf8 4 Qxd8 Kxf8 5 Rxd8 with an easy win.

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BIRTHS

Guards at the Garamba National Park, Zaire, are delighted to announce the birth of a new baby rhino 'Mbolifue' - meaning 'Gift from Heaven'.

Both mother and baby are doing fine.

Godparents wanted

For our precious "Gift from Heaven"

Before Mbolifue's arrival, there were just 29 northern white rhinos alive in Garamba; the last surviving population in the wild. You can imagine the excitement when the tiny baby calf was spotted from the air, moving slowly through the grass behind her mother. In March this year, a pregnant female was shot and brutally butchered by poachers. The birth of Mbolifue goes some way towards compensating for

that tragedy but, as a tiny calf this, "Gift from Heaven" is extremely vulnerable. That's why we'd like you to help protect Mbolifue by joining our adoption scheme for just £2 a month. In return, you'll receive a photograph of Mbolifue (when we get one!) and regular update bulletins, following your calf's progress. Please help us if you can.

* Unfortunately, the grass is too high at this time of year for a photograph of Mbolifue. This picture of a white rhino comes from our archive.

Yes, I'd like to adopt the new baby rhino Mbolifue

Please fill in this coupon and the Direct Debit instructions.

I would like to adopt Mbolifue for £2 a month ☐

Name (Mr/Ms/Mrs/Ms/Other) _____ Surname _____ Initials _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel No (area STD) _____

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Address _____

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2. Name(s) of account holder(s) _____

3. Branch sort code _____

4. Bank or Building Society Account Number _____

5. WWF-UK Reference Number _____

6. Instruction to your Bank or Building Society: Please pay WWF-UK Direct Debits from the amount detailed on this instruction to the safeguarded account by the Direct Debit Guarantee.

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RADIO CHOICE

Standing up to be counted

The Whistle-Blowers. Radio 4, 2.00pm.

If a distant bell tinkles in your head as you listen to Greg Cullen's play, as I hope you will, I think I know why. There are elements in it of Tostev's *An Enemy of the People*. In both plays, the central issue is pollution and what happens when an individual finds the courage to take on powerful vested interests. Cullen juggles with two separate contaminations — the oil disaster caused by the tanker *Sea Empress* going aground off Milford Haven last February, and an asthmatic schoolgirl's death, possibly from traffic pollution of the atmosphere. Tostev gave ecological tragedy a human face. So does Cullen. These said the strongest people in the world are those who stand alone. So, implicitly, does Cullen.

An American Slave. Radio 3, 10.45pm.

A Strict chronology is not the strong point of this documentary about a runaway American slave who helped focus a nation's humanitarian instincts on deeds so cruel they defied belief. But although this account of Frederick Douglass's life could have been better organised, it needed to be told if only because it reminds us that nobody is born to chains. It also reminds us that a single act of defiance — in Douglass's case, his physical attack on a slave-master — can have undreamt-of repercussions. "Why was I born a man out of whom to make a brute?" asked the slave who became a triumphant abolitionist and member of the Government. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 6.30am Dave Pearce 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa 'Anson' 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session 8.00 Colins and Nacass 10.00 The 10.00 Mark Goodier 12.00 Clare Sugrue 4.00am Cive Women

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00pm Alan Lester 4.00pm Henry 7.00 The News Huddlines 7.30 David Alan 8.00 Paul Jones 10.00 Daniel O'Donnell's Musical Cien (40) 10.30 The Jamisons 12.00am Steve Madden 3.00 David Alan

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, Inci 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.25 The Megawatt, with Diana MacL, Inci 10.35 News from Europe 12.00 Midday with Mark, Inci 12.35pm Moneyweek 2.05 Race on Five, Inci 3.45 Entertainment News 6.00 Newsweek, Inci at 6.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, Inci at 7.20 Sports Bulletin 7.25 David Gower's Cricket Weekly, David and his guests look ahead to Saturday's Test Match Trophy final at Lord's between Lancashire and Essex 8.05 SportsAmerica, with Alan Byrd 8.35 America Graila 10.00 News, with Jeremy Vine 11.00 Night Extra, with Valerie Sanderson 12.00am After Hours — Early Call 2.05 Up All Night, with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Pearson 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Dingley 7.00 Scott 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Pearson 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Dingley 7.00 Scott 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, Inci 6.00 Bach (Trio Sonata in E minor, BWV528); Debussy (Nocturne, Op. 27, No. 1); Beethoven (Symphony No 16 in G); Wires (Serenade for Strings); Haydn (Overture to The Seasons); Saint-Saëns (Piano Trio in F, Op. 18)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Catherine Young, Inci 9.00 Debussy (Nocturne, Op. 27, No. 1); Beethoven (Symphony No 16 in G); Wires (Serenade for Strings); Haydn (Overture to The Seasons); Saint-Saëns (Piano Trio in F, Op. 18)

10.00 Musical Encounters, Inci 10.00 Debussy (Nocturne, Op. 27, No. 1); Beethoven (Symphony No 16 in G); Wires (Serenade for Strings); Haydn (Overture to The Seasons); Saint-Saëns (Piano Trio in F, Op. 18)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Fauré, Gerhard and the Heritage of Spain

1.00pm Wednesday Matinee, Geoffrey Smith concludes his examination of the successful collaboration between the composer Sullivan and the librettist Gilbert. This week he traces the influences of Wagner, Verdi, English folk songs and Italian patter songs on numbers in *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Iolanthe*, *The Gondoliers*, *The Yeomen of the Guard*, *Ruddigore* and *The Mikado* (3/3)

2.00 Celebrity Recital, David Golub, piano, Mark Caplan, violin and Colin Carr, cello; Haydn (Piano Trio in C, H.V. 27); Schubert (Piano Trio in B flat, D959) (1)

3.30 20th-Century Strings, British music for strings played by Opus 20, under Scott Stramen, with John Harris, saxophone, Inci 3.30 Matthews (Divergence for double string quartet, Op. 21); Richard Rodney Bennett (Concerto for alto saxophone and strings)

5.00 Music Machine, with Tommy Pearson

5.15 In Tune, Presented by Humphrey Carpenter, Inci 5.15 Glinka (Valse-Fantaisie in B minor); Saint-Saëns (Caprice on Airs de Ballet from Gluck's *Alceste*); Schumann (Violin Concerto in D minor)

7.30 BBC Proms 1996, Live from the Albert Hall, London. BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Stanislaw Skrowaczewski

Incidental music: Le Roi S'Amuse; Mozart (Piano Sonata in A, K331); Haydn (Symphony No 38 in C)

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Victoria train is fast-track and first class

I hate Victoria Wood. Dear me, you are thinking that seems a bit extreme. And you are thinking that because you are paid to predict the three-month price of cocoa or drive a desk around Whitehall, whereas I am paid to be mildly amusing about entertainment stars being sent on journeys at the expense of the BBC. So I hate Victoria Wood because within two minutes of starting *Great Railway Journeys: Crewe to Crewe* (BBC2) Wood had taken every known element required for a sideswipe at said documentarists and hardened them into a single gem.

Not one of my biggest worries has come true, she announced from a station platform. "Under a new-style BBC, if you're a comedian, once you hit 40 you have to stop telling jokes and just be in documentaries. They said it was either this or going up Everest with Margaret Drabble and two blind people."

Great Railway Journeys is a series and promises to become more exotic later on. The BBC wisely filmed the all-British one first. Now that the railways are run by former bus drivers and Japanese investment bankers, Wood was lucky to return to Crewe and find it still open.

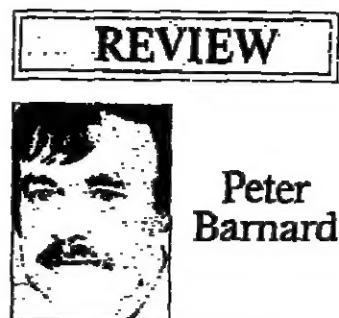
Not that the journey, up the West Coast to Thurso and back via the East Coast to Crewe, was the point of the thing. Trains are vehicles and these trains were vehicles for the wit of Wood, who kindly assists the continuity girl by sticking to jeans, T-shirt and rolling eyeballs throughout.

On one platform a man old enough to know better helped Wood to crack trainpoking: "I think I've got it now. A train comes in, you get it, put it in your little book or on your Dictaphone, take a picture of it, or video it, then you carry on doing that until you die, or become a member of the Conservative Party."

At Carnforth we learnt that this was where the exterior for *Brif Encounter* had been filmed: "That's a real Sunday afternoon film, I don't think I've ever seen it with my shoes on."

Beyond the crafted one-liners, which mark out Wood as a great comic talent, there lay genuine concern, even panic, at the state of the railways, a tremendous enterprise laid waste by political dogma. As Wood said in her parting shot: "I just worry there won't be any trains, that the people who bought them will get fed up and starting looking at adverts for boarding houses. I can't see them sticking to it."

The ultimate irony was left to the viewer to spot, when Wood took part of what once would indeed have been a great train journey... on a post bus. Just



Peter Barnard

as well it wasn't on strike. My problem with ghosts is that I do not believe in them and yet I do not believe that the people who claim to have seen them are all over-suggestible or plain liars. Religion presents much the same difficulty. But I do wish television would give up ghost-hunting, as tedious an occupation as it is intrinsically.

Short Stories: Ghost Hunters

(Channel 4) involved great amounts of mood music and cameras shooting against the light in order to produce, artificially, stark images. The tale, such as it was, concerned Randy Liebeck, a New Jersey cop whose hobby is ghost-hunting.

Liebeck came to England with parabolic microphones and thermal imaging cameras to see if he could find a ghost at Littledean Hall, whose owner, Donald Macer-Wright, was faced with selling up unless he could attract more visitors.

Macer-Wright, his son and various retainers told tales of footsteps and chills but ghosts are notorious for their failure to turn up on the set at the appointed hour. Liebeck, for whom coming to England in search of ghosts was like a Muslim making his pilgrimage to Mecca, went home and Macer-Wright put Littledean Hall up for

sale. Sad, but hardly riveting. And so to leeches, which are back. QED: Return of the Blood-suckers (BBC2) did not say where they had been, but apparently they went out of fashion in medical circles. All that is changing, thanks to a man from South Carolina who became obsessed with leeches as a boy and found that the only outlet for his passion was in Wales.

Roy Sawyer runs a leech farm there. He started it from scratch, so to speak. Now he runs "the only round-the-clock leech service" in the world. He sells them to plastic surgeons and exports 1,000 a week.

Apart from wishing that Victoria Wood had written the narration, I could find no fault. When Matthew Clark, the leading British ally driver, had the top of a thumb torn off by a car's alternator belt, surgeons sewed the thumb back on but could not get the blood circulating. Leeches could. They sucked and they sucked and they

presto, the flow of blood eventually got Clark's veins doing the job properly again.

Another man's ear was repaired by a leech, once doctors had persuaded the damned thing to stop sucking blood from his throat: it was probably an ear, nose and throat leech. Anyway, Sawyer has now discovered that leeches contain a fantastic cocktail of chemicals, some of which may be useful in fighting heart disease.

Sawyer believes that "secretions from blood-sucking animals are in cardiovascular diseases that penicillin was to infectious diseases". Fascinating, though what with ghosts, trains and blood-suckers, I feel as if I have lived through the night of the living dead. But it was worth it to hear a man in Sawyer's lab say: "Leeches grown on you." He did, I swear.

Matthew Bond will appear tomorrow

6.00am Business Breakfast (706/79) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (94650) 8.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (826037)

9.20 Style Challenge (505587) 9.45 Kilroy (151037) 10.30 Can't Stop, Won't Cook (70495)

11.00 News and regional news (Ceefax) (820399)

11.55 Gosh Fiddles (2/2) (1) (Ceefax) (538380) **12.25pm Mary Berry's Ultimate Cakes** (1930143)

1.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (58227) **1.30 Regional News** (4557347)

1.40 Neighbours. Lou sets Marlene up for a fall and Sam faces a dilemma. Can Stoshie woo Catherine? (Ceefax) (5) (5261786)

2.00 Call My Bluff (841259) 2.35 Turnabout (1045037)

3.00 The Terrace (1747) 3.30 Little Bear (890679)

3.55 Little Mouse on the Prairie (8315018) **4.15 Potsworth and Co** (7841327) 4.35 **Clarissa Explains It All** (1) (Ceefax) (5) (4059414) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (7132230) **5.10 Byker Grove** (1) (Ceefax) (5) (2852389)

5.35 Neighbours (1) (Ceefax) (5) (900143) **6.00 News** (Ceefax) and weather (501)

6.30 Regional news magazines (853)

7.00 Watchdog. The return of the consumer magazine show with Anne Robinson. In this programme the results of investigations into mortgage errors are revealed (8056)

7.30 EastEnders. Nigel offers to help Lorraine, and Pauline has some good news for the community. Robbie finds some buried treasure, and vice-versa. A shock in store for Ian (Ceefax) (5) (227)

8.00 Back to the Wild. Patrick Robinson concludes his visits to the RSPCA's animal hospital in Somerset. Peter the vet struggles to save the life of a cynoget that has stopped breathing while on his operating table and faces a life-or-death decision about a bat with a broken wing and two babies (Ceefax) (5) (2476)

8.30 The Hello Girls First Day. A comedy-drama series written by Ruth Carter and starring Letitia Dean in her first major role since leaving EastEnders (Ceefax) (5) (4211)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News, regional news and weather (5921)

9.30 Yes, Prime Minister: A Victory for Democracy. Classic sit-com. After a series of difficult encounters, Jim Hacker starts to wonder whether the Government runs the Foreign Office, or vice-versa. With Paul Eddington, Nigel Hawthorne, Derek Fowlds (1) (Ceefax) (19722)

10.00 Defence of the Realm: The Phantom Platoon. (5/5) The top-secret world of the Ministry of Defence (Ceefax) (5) (527312)

10.55 You Decide (538495)

11.45 Film: Cappuccino (1989) Australian comedy with John Clayton and Rowena Wallace. Directed by Anthony Bowman (493308)

1.05am-1.10 Weather (2761983)

6.00am Open University: Interrogating the Past (2557037) 6.25 **Women in Television** (2569872) 6.50 **Given Enough Rope** (6594655)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (8948768)

7.30 Alvin and the Chipmunks (9290056) **7.55 Cartoon Critters** (2442292) 8.20 **The Brothies** (8342259) 8.35 **Lassie** (2611769) 9.00 **Blitz on Cartooning** (72853) 9.30 **Brainwaves** (5595369)

9.35 Today's Gourmet (5595364) 10.00 **Playdays** (3014476) 10.25 **On the Road Again** (3017563) 10.55 **A Question of Sport's Golden Oldies** (1957037) 11.25 **Wales through the Seasons** (8067308)

12.15pm Young Man and His Dog (2072292) **1.00 The Perfect Pickle Programme** (58209) **1.30 Working Lunch** (29259) **2.00 The Brothies** (9306853)

2.15 Film: The Queen of Mean (1990). The love story of Lorna Heilmeyer. Directed by Richard Michaels (924037)

3.55 News (Ceefax) (4059785) 4.00 **Today's Day** (766) 4.30 **Ready, Steady, Cook** (850) 5.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show** (9705768)

5.40 True Faith's Tricks of the Trade: Puddings (1/10) (782834)

5.50 Best of Friends (1/5) (819940)

6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine: Blood Oath (242582)

6.45 Kidding and Screaming: The Golden Age. The 1930 and 1940s are remembered as a golden era of football prowess (1) (480501)

7.30 The Food Chain: Food (1/3) (679)

8.00 War Walks: Mons. Military historian Richard Holmes looks at some of history's major battles (1) (Ceefax) (5178)

8.30 Top Gear. Motoring magazine with Jeremy Clarkson (Ceefax) (5) (2853)

9.00 The Travel Show (Ceefax) (3563)

9.30 Dark Secret: Sex Unknown. (5/5) Journalist and husband recount the agonising months that followed the birth of their inter-sex baby (19704)

10.00 Hancock: The Two Murderers (b/w) (1) (Ceefax) (60018)

10.30 Newswatch (Ceefax) (329312)

11.15 The Late Review (666037)

12.00 The Limit (1) (54506)

12.30am Open University: Outsiders in - Muslims in Europe (81322) 1.30 **Childbirth and Contraception: Choices and Chances** (11964) 2.00 **Summer Nights**. Remembering the Red Fern Grows (1974)

2.30am Hancock: The Two Murderers (b/w) (1) (Ceefax) (60018)

3.00am Hancock: The Two Murderers (b/w) (1) (Ceefax) (60018)

3.30am Hancock: The Two Murderers (b/w) (1) (Ceefax) (60018)

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6.30am Hancock: The Two Murderers (b/w) (1) (Ceefax) (60018)

7.00am Hancock: The Two Murderers (b/w) (1) (Ceefax) (60018)

7.30am Hancock: The Two Murderers (b/w) (1) (Ceefax) (60018)

6.00am GMTV (939259) **9.25 Supermarket Sweep** (5) (4405132) 9.55 **Regional News** (5) (4405132) 10.00 **Time** (5) (4405132) 10.35 **This Morning** (6427037)

12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (7407292)

12.30 ITN News (Teletext) (2611327)

12.55 Shortland Street (2596018) 1.25 **Coronation Street** (Teletext) (5) (5302394) 2.00 **Home and Away** (Teletext) (5) (97102414) 2.25 **Outlaws** (Teletext) (5) (97181921) 2.50 **Vanessa** (7226666)

3.20 ITN News (Teletext) (7224698) 3.25 **Regional News** (Teletext) (7223969)

3.30 The Riddlers (1) (8494501) 3.40 **Wildman** (1) (8494501) 3.50 **Mya's Gang** (1) (8472338) 4.05 **Scrabble** (1) (8472338) 4.10 **Woof!** (1) (Teletext) (5) (4042476) 4.40 **Goggle Watch** (Teletext) (8812330)

5.10 A Country Practice (5) (7893984)

5.40 ITN News (Teletext) (739404)

6.00 Home and Away (1) (Teletext) (5) (969)

6.30 Regional News (Teletext) (621)

7.00 Emmerdale. Kathy reaches the end of the line with Sean (Teletext) (1124)

7.30 The Big Story: Murder at Meadow Farm. New evidence in the case of the murder of pensioner Harry and Megan Toozie in South Wales (5) (105)

8.00 The Bill: Second Chances. Deakin gets his chance to solve a murder but his witness is an illegal immigrant on the verge of being deported (Teletext) (5312)

8.30 The Freddie Starr Show. Freddie, as a British officer, finds ingenious ways to escape a German POW camp (Teletext) (5) (5679)

9.00 As HTV West except: 12.55pm **Home and Away** (2596018) 1.25 **Outlaws** (58448921) 1.55 **Home and Away** (43545489) 2.25 **Vanessa** (97105501) 2.55-3.20 **A Country Practice** (1050969) 3.50-4.00 **Home and Away** (7893984) 4.00-4.10 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 4.10-4.20 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 4.20-4.30 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 4.30-4.40 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 4.40-4.50 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 4.50-5.00 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 5.00-5.10 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 5.10-5.20 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 5.20-5.30 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 5.30-5.40 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 5.40-5.50 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 5.50-6.00 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 6.00-6.10 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 6.10-6.20 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 6.20-6.30 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 6.30-6.40 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 6.40-6.50 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 6.50-7.00 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 7.00-7.10 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 7.10-7.20 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 7.20-7.30 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 7.30-7.40 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 7.40-7.50 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 7.50-8.00 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 8.00-8.10 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 8.10-8.20 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 8.20-8.30 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 8.30-8.40 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 8.40-8.50 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 8.50-9.00 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 9.00-9.10 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 9.10-9.20 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 9.20-9.30 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 9.30-9.40 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 9.40-9.50 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 9.50-10.00 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 10.00-10.10 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 10.10-10.20 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 10.20-10.30 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 10.30-10.40 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 10.40-10.50 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 10.50-11.00 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 11.00-11.10 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 11.10-11.20 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 11.20-11.30 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 11.30-11.40 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 11.40-11.50 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 11.50-12.00 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 12.00-12.10 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 12.10-12.20 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 12.20-12.30 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 12.30-12.40 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 12.40-12.50 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 12.50-1.00 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 1.00-1.10 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 1.10-1.20 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 1.20-1.30 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 1.30-1.40 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 1.40-1.50 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 1.50-2.00 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 2.00-2.10 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 2.10-2.20 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 2.20-2.30 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 2.30-2.40 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 2.40-2.50 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 2.50-3.00 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 3.00-3.10 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 3.10-3.20 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 3.20-3.30 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 3.30-3.40 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 3.40-3.50 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 3.50-4.00 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 4.00-4.10 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 4.10-4.20 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 4.20-4.30 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 4.30-4.40 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 4.40-4.50 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 4.50-5.00 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 5.00-5.10 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 5.10-5.20 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 5.20-5.30 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 5.30-5.40 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 5.40-5.50 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 5.50-6.00 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 6.00-6.10 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 6.10-6.20 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 6.20-6.30 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 6.30-6.40 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 6.40-6.50 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 6.50-7.00 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 7.00-7.10 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 7.10-7.20 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 7.20-7.30 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 7.30-7.40 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 7.40-7.50 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 7.50-8.00 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 8.00-8.10 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 8.10-8.20 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 8.20-8.30 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 8.30-8.40 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 8.40-8.50 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 8.50-9.00 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 9.00-9.10 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 9.10-9.20 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 9.20-9.30 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 9.30-9.40 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 9.40-9.50 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 9.50-10.00 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 10.00-10.10 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 10.10-10.20 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 10.20-10.30 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 10.30-10.40 **Westcountry Live** (82105) 10.40-10.50 **Westcountry Live** (8210



TENNIS 38

Troubled Graf pulls through at the US open

SPORT

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5 1996

CRICKET 40

Somerset stand defiant to thwart Derbyshire



QPR begin search to fill vacancy

Wilkins falls off merry-go-round

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

RAY WILKINS parted company with Queens Park Rangers yesterday. He was not sacked, the new chairman, Chris Wright, was at pains to point out. Nor did he officially resign. Wright simply felt it was in the best interest of Wilkins and QPR that he let somebody else take over as manager.

The hidden agenda seems to be that Wilkins still thoroughly enjoys playing and would like to go on doing so, but has been less happy with the managerial side of his dual role.

"I feel Ray Wilkins may have the makings of being a great manager," Wright said, "but he's been a player at Queens Park Rangers for a number of years and maybe he found it a bit difficult to combine the roles in a club where he had been playing. He was used to being with the players, motivating them one week, but going into the transfer market, the next."

The transfer market at the moment is what concerns QPR most. A season ago, they lost their star turn, Les Ferdinand, to Newcastle United, could never really replace him and sank out of the FA Cup Premiership largely in consequence. This season, they have been beset by a host of injuries, the worst of which has ruled out Kevin Gallen, their promising young forward, for the rest of the season after an operation on his cruciate ligaments.

"Obviously the injuries



Wilkins: dual role

played a part to some extent," Wright said, "because if it wasn't for the injuries, it wouldn't have been so difficult to go out and buy new players. We need to target these players, and we need them quickly. We need to know who these players are, where they are and how we can attract them to the club."

In the past Wilkins's forays into the transfer market have not been especially successful. He brought Mark Hateley, his former AC Milan and Rangers team-mate, to Shepherds Bush in the middle of last season, but Hateley was injured at the time and has never flourished. He is now on loan to Leeds United.

Ned Zelic, the Australia international, came from Germany, did little of consequence, and has now been sold to Auxerre. Simon Osborn was bought from Reading, failed to fit in, but has done better at Wolverhampton

Wanderers. Playing as he did, it was probably difficult for Wilkins to build up the kind of contacts, especially in Scandinavia and Eastern Europe that are so vital if a manager is to acquire new talent at reasonable prices.

It has already been rumoured that Manchester City, who recently sacked Alan Ball and who have just been turned down by George Graham, would be happy for Wilkins to take over the team, but Wilkins would still prefer a club where he could continue playing.

Wright said: "I think Ray felt he had a very clear mandate to go out and get the players, and Ray does like playing." The implication is that QPR have the money to spend, if only they can find the manager to spend it and spend it wisely.

The inevitable rumours about over the identity of Wilkins's successor, Terry Venables, once a QPR manager and now involved with Portsmouth: Graham, whose merits are appreciated by Wright, and who seems to be quoted whenever a club needs a new manager; Bruce Rioch, who was shown the door by Arsenal as the season began.

Wilkins said: "I have been in professional football for over 20 years, and I can honestly say that this is the hardest situation I have ever had to deal with." Now, he intends to take his family on holiday.



The training boycott by England rugby union players left Jack Rowell, the coach, a lonely man at Bisham Abbey yesterday. Report, page 38

France feasts on football à la carte

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

JACQUES CHIRAC, the French President, is a football junkie who demands absolute silence when he is glued to the box during an important match, his wife, Bernadette, complained recently.

This strain on the presidential marriage is likely to get dramatically worse from this week, after the launch of a new digital pay-per-view package on French television that offers nearly ten times the number of live football matches being shown on the small screen and allows supporters to follow their home team from home — not just when it happens to be selected on the French equivalent of Match of the Day, but every night of the football season.

The new digital satellite

system unveiled by the French pay-television network, Canal Plus, on Tuesday is organised on an à la carte basis, with a staggering total of 340 league matches to choose from this season.

No longer will M Chirac have to put up with the *prix fixe* menu, forcing him to watch whatever match is selected for the evening's viewing. Instead, he can choose from any of the nine weekly matches being played simultaneously in the domestic soccer league, or, if he feels like a *grande bouffe*, he can watch them all, surfing from one game to another, picking up a bit here and there and no doubt driving his wife to distraction.

The new system, launched by Canal Plus in partnership with the French football league, also offers the option

of pulling up live statistics and instant replays.

France is the first country to launch a system of à la carte football using the new technology, but next week Italy follows suit with a similar package and plans are in train to bring the technology to Great Britain.

Like all the best French gourmet experiences, access to the three-star football banquet is not cheap. Subscribers must pay £220 for the initial digital receiver, satellite and "smart-card", the annual fee for access to league matches comes to a further £520, and selecting one match from the weekly menu costs £6.50, while access to the lot is £10.

Covering each match requires a team of 45, including commentators, cameramen and technicians, and Canal Plus estimates that it will

mobilise more than 400 people to cover all games.

Some football managers have voiced fears that the new satellite system will drain spectators from French stadiums, which already have low attendance records by European standards, but Noël Le Graët, the president of the French football league, argues that the huge choice of matches will bring live football to many who do not usually travel to stadiums.

"Over the last dozen years, we have seen that every live broadcast is a terrific promotion for the game," he said. "A la carte soccer will help boost this and attract even more people to the stadiums." Le Graët predicted that 300,000 people will have signed on to the new system by the end of the season.

Silvio Berlusconi, the for-

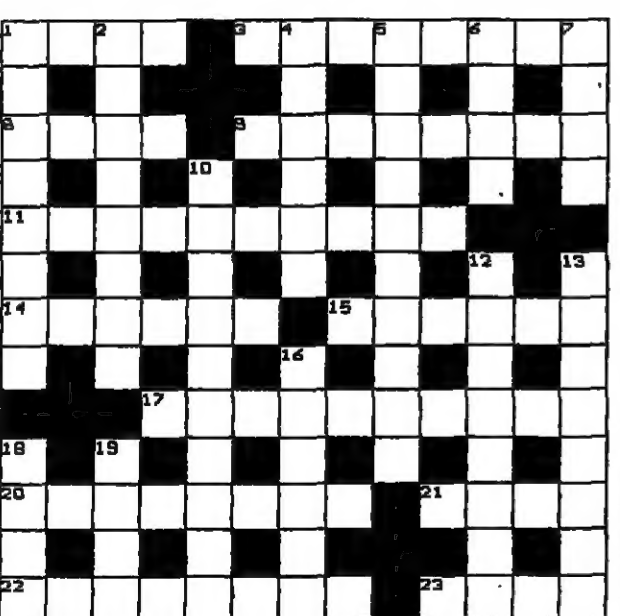
mer Italian Prime Minister and president of AC Milan, the Italian club, is taking a more cautious approach when his Telepiù network launches a comparable system at the start of the Serie A season next week. Italian viewers can subscribe to the full array of matches only for games played outside their home region. If 80 per cent of the tickets to a home match have been sold, however, the game will be made available to viewers living in the area.

With football fever at a peak after encouraging French performances in Euro 96 and new strikes in the offing promising plenty of free time, Canal Plus claims the new system will "revolutionise" the way France watches Le Foot.

For Madame Chirac, this may be a most frustrating autumn.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 879 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS

- 1 Underhand: headquarters (4)
- 3 Followed closely (8)
- 8 (Indian) spiritual teacher (4)
- 9 Ljubljana its capital (8)
- 11 To a certain extent (2,2,1,5)
- 14 Overhead structure of support (6)
- 15 Elitist selection (6)
- 17 Nasty thing (to swallow) (6,4)
- 20 Implausible (8)
- 21 Desperate; ominous (4)
- 22 Bring to mind (8)
- 23 Informal conversation (4)

DOWN

- 1 Give with bad grace (8)
- 2 Careful examination (8)
- 4 Dip in ground; not solid (6)
- 5 Its Duke seated in Derbyshire (10)
- 6 Grape drink (4)
- 7 Attract: sketch (4,6)
- 10 Honestly (4,4,4)
- 12 Make, get less (8)
- 13 Implacably determined (4-4)
- 16 Postwar PM (6)
- 18 Rough (uncial) edge; way to sound (4)
- 19 Miserable: Ron — and Eth (4)

PRIZES:

THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network. THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UK's second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrow's second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe. All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday, together with last week's winners.

Name/Address:

SOLUTION TO NO 878

ACROSS: 1 Jacobean 5 Scam 8 Crown 9 Outward 11 Bad 12 Decadent 13 Noise 15 Florin 16 Bow window 19 Mad 20 Dioxide 21 Naomi 22 Weed 23 Feasting
DOWN: 1 Jacobin 2 Crowd 3 Benedictine 4 At once 6 Clamour 7 Midas 10 Tiddlywinks 14 Tow rope 16 Nodding 17 Adhere 18 Bedew 19 Maori

Uefa review grants reprieve for Cantona

By DAVID MADDOCK

ERIC CANTONA will be eligible to play against Juventus next week in the European Cup. The Manchester United forward had originally been informed that he would have to serve a one-match ban from European competition for a caution in a Champions' League match 20 months ago.

Yesterday, however, a representative of Uefa, football's governing body in Europe, contacted the English champions to confirm that Cantona had already served the ban, and would be allowed to take part in the game perceived as the most difficult that United will face in the group stage of the competition.

Ken Merrett, the United secretary, said that Uefa had ordered a review of Cantona's case after inquiries by the club. "We were told that when Eric missed the Uefa Cup games against Rotor Volgograd last season, because of his worldwide suspension, it would not count against the European ban," he said.

"But we telephoned Uefa again this week, and they have decided that he did serve the one-match ban when he was suspended last season."

It is a significant boost for United, who were worried about taking a depleted team to Turin for a difficult tie against the European champions. Roy Keane is still in doubt, and Philip Neville could also be absent. "We are pleased about the decision on Cantona," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said. "We felt Eric should not have to serve the ban twice."

Barry Town have been given the go-ahead to stage the home leg of their Uefa Cup first-round tie against Aberdeen at their Jenner Park ground on September 24. Safety officials have given them permission to install an additional 3,500 seats to take the capacity up to 6,500.

"We didn't want to go to another ground," Gary Barnett, the Barry Town player-manager, said. Barry, who became the first League of Wales side to win a round in Europe when they beat Dinaburg, of Latvia, travel to Pinodrie next Tuesday.

Chelmsford into the black as McDonough sees red

Roy McDonough was on his best behaviour at Wembley yesterday. He led his team out of the tunnel, to the taped chanting of *We Shall Not Be Moved*, and waved to an imaginary crowd. He played with the children, posed for photographs and conducted interviews like a perfect gentleman. Was this really the football player once dubbed "Vlad the Impaler"?

Indeed it was, yet without a late tackle or tantrum in sight. McDonough, the sport's rogue of rogues, with 21 dismissals in his 22-year career, exuded charm and goodwill. With a five-figure sponsorship deal and £3 million nationwide campaign at risk, the danger of an outbreak of hostilities was never a factor.

Russell Kempson finds football's so-called 'wild man' on his best behaviour at Wembley

Still, he saw red... everywhere. McDonough, now player-manager of Chelmsford City, was helping to launch the club's backing from Britvic, the soft drinks firm. It includes red kit — designed by Wayne Hemingway, Blackburn Rovers supporter and founder of Red or Dead, the street-cred fashion label — and a new energy drink cheekily christened "Red Card".

"Huddle take your pick," one of the posters about to be unveiled to the great British

public reads, imploring the England manager to trowl the Dr Martens League, particularly New White Street, for World Cup talent. "Keeps you going till you're sent off," the slogan on the bottle reads, again rubbing in the past exploits of "Red Card" Roy.

McDonough, 37, 6ft 1in and grey of hair, appreciates the irony. "That's what I'm most known for, getting sent off," he said, without a hint of a head-butt. "Twenty-one times? I suppose it's about that. I've got this reputation as a lunatic who always wants to fight, and it's stuck."

What irks him, though, is that most critics have forgotten his achievements. Three promotions from the old fourth division, as a player with Walsall and Southend United, and the non-league Conference FA Trophy double of 1992 with Colchester United, where he was player-manager.

"It's a bit upsetting not to get recognition for that and I've always wanted my team to play the right way, to play football," he said. "Anyway, it's a great financial deal for the club, so I'm not that bothered really."

The Chelmsford players, according to the hype, are about to become superstars. "They're already heroes in Chelmsford," the ad man said. Yet some things never change.

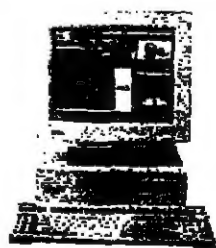
McDonough, who markets fruit-flavoured spring water for a living, was booked in his first two games this season. "One of the refs didn't even ask me my name, he knew it already," he said. "It was getting ridiculous so I've packed in playing." Vlad the Impaler, perhaps, is history.



Hemingway is putting his shirt on Chelmsford City and their player-manager, McDonough, fourth from left

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